

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Tenth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



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No. 39, Monday, April 25, 1988/ Valsakha 5, 1910 (Saka)]*

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday April 25, 1988/Vaisakha 5, 1910
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Who is being sent to Karnataka ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Shri Dandavate was being asked to go to Karnataka. A big crisis has gripped the State.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you not feel lonely in his absence ?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You are torpedoed at Madras.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : At least I shall feel lonely.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Problem of Unemployment

*796. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA† :
SHRI RAM DHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Annual Report of Labour Statistics brought out by the International Labour Organisation wherein it has been stated that the average of the unemployed persons in the world during the year 1985-86 has come down in 31 countries whereas this average has registered an increase only in 12 countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up for implementation any time-bound labour oriented schemes to totally wipe out unemployment from the country within a stipulated period;

(c) if so, the detailed outline thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(b) and (c). Details in this regard are given in Chapter 2 of Volume-I and Chapter 5 of Volume-II of the Seventh Five Year Plan document. According to para 2.29 of Volume-I, the projected scenario of a continued GDP growth rate of 5 percent per annum, a fast rate of growth of agriculture, combined with faster rate of growth of Industry together with specific employment generation programmes would, it is expected, make possible the provision of jobs to all in the labour force by the year 2000.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : According to a report, there will be 632 million young Asians who will be seeking employment by 2,000 AD. Out of them, 313 million will be in India. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will explain what has been the impact of various Government schemes and what are these schemes during the first three years of the Seventh Plan.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Member that at the end of 1987 there were a total of 302.47 lakh job seekers who were registered with various Employment Exchanges. Government have taken steps for generating in the Seventh Five Year Plan by National

Rural Development Employment Programme, the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee programme, schemes on the training of the Rural Youth Self employment, Schemes for Promotion of Self-employment among educated and uneducated youth and Self-employment Programme for Urban Poor and this has totally benefited the unemployed. I would like to give the figures. The first three years of the Seventh Plan were very encouraging and we were able to create jobs and also create employment opportunities for many younger people in the country. Under National Rural Employment Programmes, we created 952 million mandays of employment.

Under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Schemes, we produced 727 million mandays.

Under Training of Rural Youth and Self-employment Programme, we created 4.75 laks mandays.

Under Scheme for Promotion of Self-employment among educated and uneducated Youth, we created 4.47 lakh mandays.

Under Self-employment Programmes for Urban Poor, we created 3.19 lakh mandays.

All of them have benefited about 4.75 lakhs, 4.47 lakhs and 3.19 lakh persons.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOWALIA : Sir, I am lucky that through you, we can discuss the new slogan 'Bekari Hatao'... *(Interruptions)*. But the hon. Minister has not specified the Schemes, which I had already asked for.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : First I read the schemes and then I gave the figures.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOWALIA : I would put my second supplementary. What is the number of registered unemployed persons. Can you specify that all of them are genuine ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Yes, I am sure that question has been put. According to my figures, at the end of 1987, there were a total number of 302.47 lakh of job-seekers registered with the various Employment Exchanges in the country. A sample survey was done in 1972 which is very interesting... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please repeat that figure.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : It is 302.47 lakhs. I would like to inform the hon. Member through you, Sir, that all job seekers who are registered in the live register of the Employment Exchanges are not the people who are unemployed. We did a survey in 1972-73 where it was revealed that 27 per cent of the registered job-seekers who were responded were employed. Another 7.3 per cent were students. Then, we did another survey in 1987. This was done as a sample survey in Kerala. According to the sample survey which was conducted in 1987 by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Kerala in three Employment Exchanges in Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Palghat, there were 32 to 41 per cent—it is very revealing of the registrants in employment. Another 9 to 24 per cent were either students, housewife or too old to work. This has left only 34 to 59 per cent of the registrants as actually unemployed in the three Employment Exchanges.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Datta Samant.

SHRI RAM DHAN : What about me ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You were not present.

SHRI RAM DHAN : No. I was. Perhaps you did not notice my presence.

MR. SPEAKER : You were not sitting where you usually sit. What can I do if you were seated some where else.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He is in the right position. He is in the Opposition.

[Translation]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Your kind attention is needed.

MR. SPEAKER : They are my Masters. All of you are Masters.

SHRI RAM DHAN : Just now the hon. Minister gave the number of unemployed persons registered with Employment Exchanges. He has also stated the number of

such persons included in the number of registrants who are already employed somewhere or they are students. These people have been classified separately. The students are compelled by their circumstances to accept any job that comes their way. But they continue study side by side and as soon as they get a job of their liking, they abandon their studies. Is it proper to make a separate category for students registered with Employment Exchanges ? But the greatest problem is that of organised and unorganised sections just like organised and unorganised labour in this country. The Government talks of Employment Exchanges but the scenario in rural areas is quite different. Many people over there can get work for only part of the year which is called seasonal work. On the other hand, there are many who are occupied throughout the year. But these people work under compulsion because they are bonded labourers. Besides this, many workers get work under contractors. May I know whether the Government will set up a Committee to find out the number of unemployed people not registered with Employment Exchanges ? How many people work for only 2-3 months in a year and remain idle in the remaining period ? One can see such situation so often in Harijan and Adivasi areas. I saw this type of a situation on a recent visit to Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask a question instead of giving a speech.

SHRI RAM DHAN : I am not giving a speech. There are 250 bonded labourers working in kilms in Sultanpur which is Shri Rajiv Gandhi's constituency (*Interruption*).

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The hon. Member has put questions relating to unorganized labour—people who work part-time, seasonal labourers. I have the figures in the emyloyment registry. It is mostly in towns and sub-towns. We have formed a Committee under National Commission for Rural Labour, which was under a Member of Parliament, Mr. Daji. There were also two Sub-Committees formed by the Consultative Committee, one under Mr. Das Gupta and the other under Mr. Somnath Rath. Mr. Somnath Rath is not here; his was the one which had to identify and give suggestions on non-agricultural sector, that means,

labourers who are unorganized, and on the agricultural sector. These two Committees were there and they have identified certain problems, and the Government has already recommended back to the States to see that they are implemented.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : This is a serious problem which, in this House, I have always raised. There are seven crores of unemployed in this country—double the official figure which the Minister has given. In every house there is one unemployed person. In Bombay the number is eight lakhs...

MR. SPEAKER : Ask your question.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am asking a categorical question, Sir. In the private sector, as per your Seventh Plan report, the employment potential has gone down by 1.5 per cent—it is in the interim report. To the big houses you have given money, but the employment potential has gone down by 1.5 per cent. In the public sector the Government has given the voluntary retirement scheme and three lakhs workers are gone. There also the potential has gone down from 21 lakhs to 19 lakhs. In the Railways the employment potential is 16 lakhs and it has been stagnant for the last four years. It is there in the Report. In textile and jute, the potential has gone down by 2.5 lakh workers. These are mentioned in the reports of the Government given in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : Ask your question.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : My categorical question is this. Slogans have been given yesterday in Tamil Nadu like '*Bekari Hatao*'. It is a joke. I am going to raise this issue in the Zero Hour. It is a joke. (*Interruptions*) By 1990, after ten years, you are going to remove '*Bekari*'...

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : My categorical question is this. What are the concrete plans of the Government to remove this '*Bekari*' ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I would just like to inform the hon. Member that in my reply to the first question, to hon.

Member Shri Ramoowalia, I have given the different schemes of the Government. As far as increasing of employment is concerned, I think, he will be able to answer more because he was personally responsible to get people to be jobless...

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I take objection to this. Why is he making such a statement ? (*Interruption.*)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Because you have been accusing us. Government is doing everything possible in this direction...

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The Minister must withdraw his statement.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I will not withdraw it.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : It is the government policy which has failed. The Minister must withdraw his statement...

MR. SPEAKER : Why should he ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am a responsible Member. I was talking about government policy...

MR. SPEAKER : You said certain things against him.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I was talking of government policy...

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing unparliamentary about it.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : These are in the mid-term reports of the Government. Why is he talking like this ? It is the Government's policy which has failed.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly keep your astrology to yourself.

[English]

Sit down now.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I have just given you figures of the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan and the figures are very encouraging. What I am telling you is that the Government is doing everything possible to generate jobs for younger people and unemployed people...

(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him speak.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : It is the people—now I don't want to mention—who are trying to do everything possible to see that...(*Interruptions*)...By talking loudly, you do not create jobs.

(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. There is no question.

(*Interruption*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep your forecasts to yourself.

[English]

I am not concerned with *Bhavishyawanis* here.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., I.R.D.P, and the Desert Development Programme are all employment-oriented. May I know how the Government is going to achieve its aim of providing a job to at least one member per family ? The people of India are eager to know as to what concrete steps Government intend to take in this direction.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The Government is determined to create jobs. This is our Prime Minister's programme... (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be answer.

(*Interruption*)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The Government's ultimate aim is to get job for one in each family. This was stated by the Prime Minister also in every programmes under the 20 Point Programme. And the Government programme is aimed to see that more jobs are generated in the country. We have identified the employment generating area specially in the Seventh Plan Document.. This is the development of irrigated farming, optimum utilisation of irrigation potential...(*Interruption*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : There is not much time left for questions. You can seek a discussion on the subject later on.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, I am saying it is all right. That will be discussed. If there is anything very important, we cannot devote all the time for one question. That is why, I say, you can have a discussion later on. I cannot have all this time for one question.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question has not been answered. My question is about providing employment to at least one member per family.

MR. SPEAKER : You can seek a discussion later on.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I have already given a reply. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

Price of Fruits and Vegetables

*803. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the prices of fruits, vegetables and pulses have registered increase in the last few weeks;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to reduce their prices ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of some fruits, green vegetables and pulses have increased in the last few weeks.

(b) The main reason is the seasonality factor.

(c) Various schemes have been drawn up by different States/Union Territories for

increasing the production of these commodities. NAFED, Mother Dairy, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar and Civil Supplies Corporations of different States are retailing essential commodities including fruits and vegetables, in the open market to stabilise prices.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : There has been price increase in respect of food-grains, pulses and vegetables. The wholesale price and the consumer price have been increasing everyday. Prices of the commodities, specially the essential commodities and primary articles also have continued to rise. Sufficient stocks are not available in the retail sales centres marketing the essential commodities. The cost in the open market is also increasing day by day. The poor consumers are the hardhit due to increase in prices.

May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that some merchants and businessmen are creating artificial shortage of essential commodities including vegetables and fruits ? If so, what are the steps proposed to be taken against these persons ? I would like to know whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the export of fruits and vegetables in order to see that all these commodities are available in plenty in the open market thereby stabilising the prices of these commodities.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : So far as the availability of the commodities that are referred to in the question, i.e. fruits, vegetables and pulses are concerned, I don't think that in the case of fruits and vegetables there is any shortage; sufficient quantity is available. In the case of pulses we are increasing the production. Fortunately, the crop is very good this year and some pulses are being imported also. We are not exporting any pulses. Fruits and vegetables are available. Because of drought, no doubt, the production has not been upto the mark.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : In the reply given by the Minister it is stated that States and Union Territories have drawn up various schemes to increase the production of these essential commodities. May I know from the Hon. Minister what percentage has been supplemented by the States and Union

Territories to supply such commodities to the consumers and to what extent the price rise has been arrested by such schemes ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : These commodities, particularly the vegetables and fruits, are mostly sold by the retailers. In Delhi the Dairy Development Board has set up certain retail outlets where they are selling fruits and vegetables. In so far as pulses are concerned, they are available in the open market. We import a lot of pulses through NAFED and distribute them through the public distribution system. In some of the States NAFED makes available these pulses. For the production of pulses a very ambitious scheme has been drawn up throughout the country and I hope that the production of pulses will go up.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to the reasons as to why the prices of pulses, oilseeds and vegetables increase and why they become scarce. The traders purchase Arhar and oilseeds just after harvesting from farmers at cheap prices and after sometime sell them at double prices. Similarly when the production of potato is in plenty, some people purchase them at low prices and store the same in their cold storages because common farmers do not have such facilities. This leads to the hike in prices. The Government have separate shops for procurement of some grains like paddy and wheat at the rate determined by the Government. Would you please make such arrangement for pulses and oilseeds also to enable the farmers to get remunerative price for their produce which is now being snatched away by businessmen so that the prices may be kept under control.

My second point is that small farmers having less than one acre of land are given subsidy for growing oilseeds. He may grow paddy or oilseeds. Will you provide subsidy to other farmers also who have land and grow oilseeds ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Hon. Member is aware that this is for pulses and oilseeds which are mainly grown in unirrigated land which is dependent on rain. Severe drought of last year has adversely affected the production of pulses and oilseeds. A separate scheme is being implemented to enhance the production of pulses.

At national level, two programmes have been launched to increase production of oilseeds namely National Oilseeds Development Project and Oilseeds Thrust Programme—'Beej Gram Yojana' has also been launched for it. Both the programmes i.e. G.O.D.P. and Oilseeds Thrust Programme are being implemented in 17 states. Farmers intending to grow oilseeds are being provided required facilities. As far as question of price rise is concerned I would like to make it clear to the hon. Member that the different support prices are fixed for different cereals. If prices fall below the fixed support price the Government purchases farmer's produce on support price through NAFED. The supply of pulses is being entrusted to the public distribution system. It is for the State Governments if they want to include it in their own distribution system. The edible oil, which is imported is sold by fair price shops. It was stated on behalf of the Government that this facility is available to all categories of farmers under the scheme of Pulses Development Programme.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Will Arhar and oilseeds be sold by fair price shops as wheat is sold by them.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied to it.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Will such directions be issued to the State Governments ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already told.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : States can do it.

[*Ergl, Sh.*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Production of fruits is 58 million tonnes and juice extraction is 5.5 lakh tonnes. Due to the severe droughts and floods, how much production has been reduced ? And how much the quantity of pulp has been reduced ?

You are exporting pulp and pulp juices to other countries. I would also like to know how much you are exporting and how much amount you are getting by way of these exports.

Whether it is also a fact that some of the pulp industries are harassing the farmers

who are producing the pulp and pulp juices ?

MR. SPEAKER : I don't think he will be able to answer this question because the question is regarding the increase in the prices of fruits, etc.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : He can answer the first part, that is, so much production has been reduced. Generally, we are getting 58 million tonnes from fruits. How much production has been reduced due to the severe droughts ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the production of fruits and pulses has been reduced due to the incessant drought for last 2-3 years.

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking only about fruits.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I am coming to that. The production of pulses which was 133 lakh tonnes in 1985-86 reduced to 117.4 lakh tonnes in 1986-87 due to the drought. That is why we had to import pulses. We imported 227929 tonnes of pulses in 1983-84 and a sum of Rs. 92.00 crore (approx.) was spent on it. Later on we imported 2 lakh 35 thousand 390 tonnes of pulses in 1984-85.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is asking about the reduction in production of fruits due to drought.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : You should tell the quantum of reduction in the production of fruits due to drought.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : You please listen. I was submitting that the production of pulses has reduced from 133.6 lakh tonnes to 117.4 lakh tonnes due to drought. As far as reduction in the production of fruits is concerned I do not have the figures at this moment.

MR. SPEAKER : You may furnish the same later on.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I can furnish the figures in respect of vegetables immediately, if hon. Members desire.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you may please furnish the figures pertaining to fruits later on.

Mr. Tanti, now it is your turn please ask your question.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : The Minister comes without any preparation. The question pertains to fruits.

MR. SPEAKER : He will refer the matter to you.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already stated that the figures regarding reduction in production of fruits are not available with him at this moment.

(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : So, you want only to know the figures about reduction in fruits production due to the drought. The Minister will supply you the same because they are not available with him at this moment.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : The Minister is expected to have all the details.

MR. SPEAKER : If he has not got the figures, then why should he give wrong figures ? Let him have the correct figures. Then he will pass them on to you.

[*Translation*]

When the figures are not available with him then what is the use of incorrect figures.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Whether he has got the infrastructure or not ? Let him inform the House about the horticulture production.

Anti-Labour Practices in Newspaper Industry

*804. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether anti-labour practices are prevailing in the newspaper industry;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to ensure that all newspaper managements meet their legal obligations towards their employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) A complaint against two newspaper managements has been received from a Union of Working Journalists regarding the appointment of Working Journalists on a contract basis, with a view to denial of the benefits available under the Working Journalists and Other Newspapers Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 as well as the benefits likely to accrue as a result of the recommendations of the sitting Bhachawat Wage Board.

(b) The concerned State Government and the Union Territory Administration have been requested to look into the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : My question was whether anti-labour practices are prevailing in the newspaper industry or not. This was my specific question. And the reply is that the Government has received a complaint, that is, indirectly they have accepted that there are anti-labour practices in the newspaper industry. I am surprised to see from the reply given by the hon. Minister that he has mentioned two newspaper managements but he has not mentioned the names of the managements who are involved in the anti-labour practices and the complaint received from the working journalists. May I ask the hon. Minister to name the newspaper industries who are involved in it ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The representation was received in the Ministry on 19th April, 1988 by the National Union of Journalists which drew the attention of the Ministry to the rising trend of the newspaper industry of having working journalists on contract basis and the two newspaper industries are the Times of India and the Hindustan Times.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : My second supplementary is that it is admitted that the anti-labour practices in the country are going on at the instance of the Government and the Government is a party in it. They are encouraging anti-labour practices. For example, in Hindustan Paper Corporation, contract labour system is going on...

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, in the first instance paper has to be produced, only then the newspapers will be able to utilise it.

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Is there law to prevent it ?

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : There are laws but the laws are anti-labour laws. Sir, in 800 tea estates in Assam anti-labour practices are going on.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a question regarding newspaper industry.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I am coming to that, Sir. This is anti-labour practice in respect of newspaper industry. I am citing one example. The anti-labour practices are going on not only in the newspaper offices but in all the public and the private sector industries.

MR. SPEAKER : You come to the point straight.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : This is the practice which is going on in almost all the industries, be it the public sector industry or the private sector industry. The Government has failed to stop it. There are many small and medium newspaper industries in the country and many people have been engaged in various capacities in them. They have not been paid properly and given other benefits under the prevailing laws. Whenever we put questions, the Government says, "we are looking into the matter" or "the matter is under consideration" or is being looked into."

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Who has told you ?

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : May I ask the Hon. Minister as to what steps his Ministry is going to take so far the anti labour practices in newspaper industry is concerned and what efficacious remedy is being sought for by these people who are engaged in it ?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you asking the question in a round about manner ?

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Sir, this practice has to be resorted to, to elicit desired response.

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : This is something which has worried us also. I would have been happy if more questions would have arisen about the journalists who have been actually helping you. You have been trying to safeguard the interests of those industrialists and those capitalists who own the newspaper. I would have been happy to reply to you. The Opposition should have come out more with the journalists supported you. They have been supporting you outside, everywhere. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I am speaking to him. I will answer you also when I will come to you. (*Interruption*)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I am giving you an answer. I would like to refer again to the two specific complaints which have come to us. We are recommending this and sending to the Bhachawat Wage Board. We expect that within 3 or 4 months' time we will come out with it and we will be able to safeguard their position.

But, as far as today is concerned, the working journalists' Act has the provision to safeguard this. The Working Journalists Act, whose principal advocate is journalism and who are employed either whole time or part time or related to one of the newspapers, which includes, editors, writers, news editors, sub-editors, feature writers, copy writers, reporter correspondent, cartoonist, news photographer and proof readers, these are all covered under the Industrial Disputes Act. The complaints, which we have received and which do not come under the I.D.A. where the management is trying to misuse his authority and give them contract so that at any time they could be fired, we are referring these complaints. I have also referred the two complaints which we have received to the Delhi Administration and Maharashtra Government and said that they should be dealt with according to the law and they should see where they have broken the law. I have also said that this should be recommended to the Bhachawat Wage Board so that as

soon as the report comes, we will be able to put these things right.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The Minister was kind enough to disclose the names of two newspapers, the Times of India and the Hindustan Times but I am afraid, Sir, this is the practice which is in vogue in many other newspapers too. As has been pointed out by the Minister himself and as has been pointed out by the memorandum submitted to the Ministry, this is a rising trend. I would like the Minister to answer as to whether there is any specific provision as of today, which says engagement of journalists on contract basis is illegal ? This practice is utterly unfair. But it must also be made illegal. Unless such practice is made patently illegal, unfair practices will go on. So, will the Government take some steps to amend the law to make what is unfair, also illegal ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : All working journalists are covered by the Industrial Disputes Act, and are, thus, "workmen" within the meaning of the Industrial Disputes Act. If a working journalist, is defined under the Working Journalist, and other Newspapermen (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, has his condition of service changed while in employment, then such notice of change has to be given in terms of Section 9 (a) by the employer of the working journalists. If any employer effects such a change in the conditions of service applicable to working journalist, then he would contravene the industrial disputes act and would be resorting to an unfair labour practice as defined in the Fifth Schedule to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My question relates not only to the journalists who are in service, but also to journalists who are being freshly employed. The provision he referred to, pertains to journalists who are working. If their service conditions are altered while they are in service, the provisions are attracted. Now, the newspaper industries are resorting to a clever and devious practice of employing journalists afresh on contract basis which does not contravene any provision of the Act as of now. Will you, therefore, think of amending the law to cover such journalists that may be employed afresh ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I will consider it and send to the Commission.

Production of Oilseeds and Pulses in Eastern Region

***805. DR. G.S. RAJHANS† :**
SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the green revolution in agriculture has only marginally affected the eastern part of India; and

(b) if so, what further steps are being taken to ensure high productivity in oilseeds and pulses in the eastern States ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

Statement

The growth in agricultural productivity in the eastern parts of India has been modest and below the attainable levels considering the large potential of the region.

Apart from the efforts being made in the state sector, the Centrally Sponsored National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and the Central Sector Oilseeds Production Thrust Programme (OPTP) are being implemented in various States, including the eastern States to ensure higher productivity in oilseeds. Similarly, the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented for increasing production and productivity of pulses. Under NODP, OPTP and NPDP, assistance is being given to the State Governments in production and multiplication of quality seeds, provision of plant protection cover, distribution of improved implements and organisation of demonstrations to disseminate advanced production technology. In addition, assistance is being provided for distribution of minikits of oilseeds and pulses under the Central Sponsored Scheme of Small and marginal Farmers for Increasing the Production and Productivity of these crops.

[English]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Mr. Speaker Sir, the reply is very vague. The hon.

Minister says that the growth in agricultural productivity is modest. I do not know what he means by that. I want to know what the difference is between 'modest' and 'poor'. He has mentioned that some steps have been taken for the growth in production of oilseeds and pulses in all the States. I want to know what specific steps have been taken for the Eastern States and particularly for Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is about low agricultural production in the Eastern States and they have no significant contribution in the green revolution. It is true that the production of oilseeds and pulses in Eastern States is far less than the large potential of the region. There are several reasons—one, the Eastern States of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal are flood prone and second, the consumption of fertilisers is less than the expected levels. The average consumption of fertilisers in Punjab is 157 kilograms per hectare but in Assam, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh it is 4, 17 and 20 kilograms per hectare respectively.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The hon. Minister is referring to oilseeds, in the production of which consumption of fertilisers is not much.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Nothing can be produced without fertilisers, even in the kitchen garden fertilisers are to be applied for better yield. Small quantity of fertilisers is necessary.

MR. SPEAKER : Please tell him about green revolution.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Second question is about seeds. In the Eastern States quality seeds have not been used to desired extent and modern technology has also not been adopted properly. However due to the introduction of various programmes by the Government of India, the production has somewhat increased in comparison to earlier times mainly that of rice, pulses and oilseeds. With statistics I want to stress that in the Seventh Five Year Plan the Government will spend Rs. 105 crores on these programmes for pushing the output of these crops to maximum level. This allocation has been made exclusively for the

Eastern States for raising the output to maximum level under these programmes.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am confused because of the duel between hon. Minister of Agriculture and the erstwhile Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you afraid of it ?

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : I want to ask second supplementary question, which is very important and fundamental. Will the hon. Minister inform me as to what is being planned for Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : I thought the most important uses the first one.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : I would urge the hon. Minister to pay attention to the matter raised by me. It was reported in all the newspapers of Bihar. I raised the matter in the House. The Centre had supplied rotten seeds to Bihar during the floods last year. Will the hon. Minister let us know the findings of the enquiry, if at all conducted, and the action taken against the culprits ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know the assistance given to Bihar. About Bihar I want to inform that as far as the production of rice is concerned...*(Interruptions)*... please listen...what assistance has been given to Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : For rice cultivation also seeds are required.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : For rice cultivation in the year 1986-87 Rs. 5.73 crores, in 1987-88 Rs. 5.15 crores and in 1988-89 Rs. 6.95 crores have been given to Bihar. Similarly for pulses cultivation Rs. 35.22 lakh, Rs. 23 lakh, Rs. 21 lakh were given in 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 respectively and for the year 1988-89 Rs. 38 lakh have been given. As far as the question of supply of sub-standard seeds is concerned, this issue relates to wheat and it had come up earlier also...this is not about pulses seeds but is about wheat seeds. The Government of Bihar requested the Government of India to send wheat

seeds because they did not have sufficient quantity. The Government of India could not fulfil the demand, since there was not enough stocks, left with it as the seeds are to be distributed to States for onward distribution among farmers two months in advance before each sowing season. We supplied 3 lakh quintals of quality wheat to Bihar and 1 lakh quintal to Jammu and Kashmir assorted from special F.C.I. Godown ... *(Interruptions)* please listen. There was nothing wrong with its germination. It is quite possible that the yield might have not been upto the mark. Some thing can be done only if the hon. Members listen patiently. Mr. Speaker, Sir you yourself being an agricultural expert know well that when seed is produced then the yield per hectare will not be equivalent to that of ordinary wheat. If the yield of ordinary seed is the same as that of quality seed then where is the need for producing the seed. Therefore quality seeds are produced so that production could be enhanced and therefore its cost is higher. Before distributing seed we told the Government of Bihar explicitly that this is not certified seed, this is not Government of India seed, but it is good quality wheat. We germinated it and found no difference in germination, however, the difference might be in yield. On receiving complaints, the senior officers including Secretary, Agriculture, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary visited the spot and found that people scattered seeds in limited area, so how could the germination take place in the absence of moisture.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : The water is in abundance in the whole of north Bihar and the hon. Minister is saying that water was not available.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Output declined but there was nothing wrong in the germination, because on visit to other areas we found and it was the general opinion of the people also that there is no difference in germination, however, yield differed.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no doubt hon. Minister of Agriculture is an expert in the field of Agriculture and this is also right that a number of incentives have been given

by the Government for the production of pulses and oilseeds and many measures have been adopted but I would like to know that when the Government it self have admitted this fact in this House that it is the most severe drought of the century and purchasing power of the poor people residing in villages has been diminished and despite adopting all measures we have to import pulses, oilseeds or edible oils, still supply of minikits which were used to be distributed in all blocks of India by Central Government in order to help the poor has come down from 300 or 350 per block to 150 or 200. In view of this, I want to request the government to clarify whether that is an incentive for increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of stopping the supply of mini-kits programme. Mini-kits programme is still continuing and minikits are distributed. Of course, the mini-kits are not available in the required quantity. But whatever number of mini-kits is available, are sent to all those States properly where these programmes are launched. If the hon. Member have grievances against the supply of these mini-kits in certain districts and places, they can send their written complaints and we will enquire into the matter and if this is found correct that no mini-kits have been sent there, the arrangements will be made to send them as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rao is also allowed to put question.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Now the Guru will ask from the disciple.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot differentiate between the Guru and the disciple.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I will accept Shri Rao my Guru.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : You are matchless. You are Guru of all Gurus.

The first thing which I want to know from the hon. Minister is that in other areas or Bihar and Eastern regions where is available in abundance and there is no dearth of rains and pulses and oil seeds are mostly grown in such areas where cultivation depends on rain but that region is such where oilseeds and pulses can be

cultivated and production can be increased sufficiently. The hon. Member asked as to why there was shortage in supply of mini-kits in these areas and there is no increase in the production of pulses and oilseeds. Previously ten or twelve lakhs of mini-kits were used to be distributed in a year but why its number has so much been reduced that these mini-kits have not been supplied more than 200 or 250 per district in any State. There is no problem of availability because it requires seeds in a very small quantity such as 250 grams or 500 grams oilseeds and 2 or 4 kilogram fertilizer. Therefore availability of these mini-kits is there but the Government has reduced its funds being spent on it. So what is the reason of doing so? Whether the reason is that the government did not consider it as a suitable programme for increasing the production.

Secondly those particular areas where pulses can be cultivated such as the beawar land in Bihar where a very good Arhar can be cultivated. Similarly there are many fertile areas for producing oilseeds. Therefore I want to know from the government whether it will chalkout the programme of distributing maximum mini-kits, particularly, in Eastern States so that the production could be increased?

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are fully aware that the biggest incentive for increasing production of commodities is the remunerative prices which should be provided to the farmers. The government is planning to import about 15 lakh tonnes edible oil and for the first time the Central Government has planned to import about two lakh tonne seeds of oil as I have read in the newspapers. If the seeds of pulses and edible oil, in a big quantity, are imported and the same imported oil is freely distributed in Eastern States and low prices are paid to the farmers then how can the production be increased? Will the hon. Minister please state whether seeds of oil are being imported for the first time in our country and if so the quantity thereof? How much edible oil is being imported and what would be its effect on the prices in respect of the farmers? Will such a step not decrease the production?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Rao has stated very reasonable things but he is very well aware with all

these things. He has also worked as Minister of Agriculture for long time and he has been a Chief Minister also. There is decrease in the production of pulses and edible oils because the country had to face the natural calamity suddenly in the form of most severe drought of this century. The pulses are produced in this places like Rajasthan and Gujarat where there is shortage of water. The crops such as mustard, tarameera, toriya are cultivated only in the places having less water. Therefore the production is reduced from 133 to 117. We are making our best efforts for maximising production of oilseeds and pulses in the country.

The hon. Member has enquired about any proposal to import 2 lakh tonne seeds. In this connection I want to make it clear that no such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present, to import such a big quantity of seeds. It is well known that edible oil has been imported. When the production in the country was reduced, the government had to take care of consumers. Prices had also to be kept in check. The government have to take care of the interest of the poor people. When there was a decrease in the production of oilseeds, the government had to import about 20 to 21 lakhs tonne edible oil. But the Government of India... (*Interruptions*). The government have only planned but it is not yet been imported. I say only this much that the government have to import only just to keep prices stable and under control. But as far as the matter regarding increasing production in country and providing remunerative prices to farmers is concerned, it is reasonable and it has always been our efforts to see that different commodities whether it is pulses, cotton or wheat should be imported in minimum quantity, so that the farmers could get remunerative prices for their produce. I want to tell Shri Rao that the government imports a thing only when no other alternative is left so that the farmers may not suffer and could get remunerative prices.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The prices of mustard have gone down to half.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : There is no doubt that the prices of mustard had

increased very much in the last two-three months. Now the prices have fallen but not so much as has been stated by the hon. Member. The prices of mustard are Rs. 650-700 per quintal and Rs. 700-750 per quintal also. If the present mustard prices are stabilised, then there is nothing wrong. When there will be a hike in its prices, the poor will have to purchase oil at very high prices. Therefore when the prices fall, the government intervenes to provide remunerative prices to the farmers.

As far as Bihar is concerned I want to tell you that under the National Development Scheme an amount of Rs. 19 crore, 24 lakhs have been allocated for the year 1988-89 for small and marginal farmers. Similarly Rs. 60 lakhs has exclusively been allocated for production of oilseeds in Bihar in order to maximize production. I want to assure Shri Rao and this House that the government will try its best to make least import and will try to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. The government is always anxious to see that neither the consumers nor farmers are put to any inconvenience.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

NDMC Dues Against Meridian, Bharat and Prominent Hotels

*797. **SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether moratorium upto November, 1987 was granted by the NDMC to Meridian, Bharat and Prominent hotels in respect of payment of licence fee and interest due;

(b) if so, the amount involved;

(c) whether the dues have been cleared after the expiry of moratorium period; and

(d) if not, the action taken to recover the dues ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New Deihi Municipal Committee have reported that the dues from these hotels towards licence fee and interest thereon upto Novemver, 1987 were as follows :

S. No.	Name of the hotel	Licence fee due	Interest due
(i)	Meridien hotel	Rs. 13.40 crores	Rs. 5.56 crores
(ii)	Bharat hotel	Rs. 5.80 crores	Rs. 2.00 crores
(iii)	Prominent hotel	Rs. 1.28 crores	
(both licence fee & interest)			

(c) and (d). The NDMC has reported that the moratorium period for Maridien Hotel and Bharat Hotel has been extended till September, 1988 and November 1988, respectively. Therefore, the question of recovering the dues for the present does not arise.

No further extension of moratorium has been granted to prominent hotels and a demand notice has been issued by the N.D.M.C. to them to pay the entire dues.

Availability of Agricultural Produce

*798. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of various agricultural produce including foodgrains likely to be surplus to our requirements and available for export during the current year;

(b) the details of the agricultural produce including foodgrains likely to be deficient and required to be supplemented by imports during the current year;

(c) the details of the buffer stock of above items available in the country as on 1 April, 1988; and

(d) the optimum size of the buffer stock required to control market price in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) and (b). As the harvesting of the rabi crop is in progress and the kharif crops are yet to be

sown, it is too early to estimate the availability of agricultural produce during the current year including surpluses and deficiencies and the need for exports and imports.

(c) The stock of foodgrains with public agencies was 11.24 million tonnes on 1.3.88.

(d) According to the buffer stocking policy of the Government, the size of the buffer stock of wheat and rice to be maintained by public agencies should be 10 million tonnes.

Wastage of Fish

*799. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to solve the problem of wastage of fish thrown overboard for economic reasons by deep-sea fishing trawlers;

(b) whether Government propose to implement any scheme at the major fishing harbours for arranging export/sale in the hinterland, of fish caught by deep sea trawlers; if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) The problem of by-catch is universal for trawlers and in particular shrimp trawlers and the question of by-catch utilisation depends mainly

on its demand and price. Government have sanctioned a new unit of Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin at Visakhapatnam in order to study the utilisation of low value fish, including by-catch, landed by deep sea trawlers.

(b) and (c). Government have no proposals to arrange export/sale of fish from the major fishing harbours, as these are expected to be taken up by private sector and State Fisheries Corporations.

Master Plan for Development of Buddhist Places in Orissa

*800. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Buddhist Cultural Centre in Orissa is included in the tourist circuit for promoting tourism;

(b) whether any master plan has been prepared for the development of Buddhist places like Lalitgiri, Pushagiri and Udaigiri as tourist centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any of these centres is being internationally or nationally projected for attraction of the tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For development of the Buddhist Centres at Lalitgiri, Udaigiri and Ratnagiri, the Central Ministry of Tourism has got a Master Plan prepared by the Town and Country Planning Organisation of the Ministry of Urban Development.

(d) It will be premature to project the centres for attraction of tourists at this stage as the development of required infrastructure is still in progress.

(e) Does not arise.

Committee on unorganised Labour

*801. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee to look into the conditions, problems and grievances of unorganised workers in the country;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee regarding the upliftment of the bidi workers; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to implement those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). The Government is seized of the problems of the unorganised workers in the country. With a view to achieving a better understanding of all-India as well as region-specific problems, thereby getting an insight into issues relevant to the overall development process as well as specifically rural labour oriented programme, the Government set up a National Commission on Rural Labour in August, 1987. The terms of reference of the Commission are given below in the statement. The Commission has not submitted any report and therefore, the question of the Government taking steps to implement those recommendations does not arise.

Statement

Terms of Reference of the National Commission on Rural Labour

1. To study in a dynamic setting, the problems of identification, categorisation and quantification of rural labour, taking into account its economic, social and regional dimensions.
2. To study, in the context of a changing traditional socio-economic frame-work, the economic, social and working conditions of rural labour and the disabilities, including a lack of social security, arising therefrom.
3. To study the existing legislative and other provisions intended to protect the interests of Rural labour and to assess the effectiveness of these measures as also that of the appertinent administrative arrangements and delivery systems.

4. To study the formulation and implementation of land reform and other institutional reform measures having a bearing on rural labour, specially on its land dependent section.
5. To study the effects of the changes in the control and management of community property resources including land forests and water on rural labour.
6. To study the phenomenon of migration, the various laws, administrative and recruitment practices relevant to migrant labour as also their particular disabilities.
7. To study in the context of the requirements of rural labour, issues relating to the planning process, the various development plans and programmes and their implementation.
8. To study the social development measures in sectors such as health family welfare, housing, water supply, education including training and the impact they have had on the quality of life of rural labour.
9. To study and report in particular on :
 - (i) the efficacy of various legislative and other measures adopted so far with reference to share-croppers and other types of tenants.
 - (ii) the problem of bonded labour (including that of consumption loans) and the effect of legislative and other measures adopted for removing their bondage.
 - (iii) supplemental plans for specific target groups/areas for employment creation, income generation and poverty alleviation.
 - (iv) the investment pattern in the various plans, the choice of technologies and their effect on labour absorption.
- (v) factors impinging on the demand for rural labour, their effect on the bargaining power of rural labour and constraints on the organisation of rural labour.
- (vi) fixation of a minimum wage for rural labour as also the enforcement mechanism.
- (vii) the particular problems of women and children.
- (viii) arrangement for collecting data relevant to a study of the problems of rural labour, promoting research and dissemination information.
- (ix) a comparative study of the experience in different regions of India and that of other countries.

[Translation]

Madua Crop in Uttar Pradesh

*802. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total area of land in Uttar Pradesh on which Madua crop is grown;
- (b) whether Government are preparing any scheme to encourage the farmers who are growing this crop to grow other cash crops also; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) The total area under Madua (Ragi) crop in Uttar Pradesh is 1.67 lakh hectares (1986-87).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Autonomy to ICAR

*806. SHRIMATI USHA CHOURA-DHARY :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee headed by Dr. G.V.K. Rao, former Member of Planning Commission, in a report submitted to Government has recommended conferment of full autonomy to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, the recommendation made in this regard;

(c) what are other major recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (d). Yes. Sir. The Report was submitted on 25.3.88 and is under examination.

[*Translation*]

Foodgrains Bank

*807. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to set up a 'Foodgrain Bank'

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Indian Workers Abroad

*808. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether occupation-wise and country-wise statistics of Indian workers working in foreign countries are maintained;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and occupation-wise;

(c) whether Indian workers in large number are returning from Gulf countries; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The information pertaining to Indian workers in foreign countries (occupation-wise and country-wise) is not maintained. However, statistical information about emigration clearances granted under the Emigration Act, 1983 to Indian Workers going to the Middle-East is maintained. The information for the years 1986 and 1987 is given below in the statement I and II respectively.

(c) and (d). Information about the returning emigrant workers from the Gulf countries is not maintained. However, there has been a decline in the requirement of manpower in the Gulf region due to economic recession and slowing down of developmental process there. The position has now stabilised and manpower export from India to the region during 1987 has registered an increase of 11% over 1986.

APRIL 25, 1988

Statement-I
Category wise and country wise Emigration clearance given during 1986

S. No.	Category	Bahrain	Iraq	Jordan	Kuwait	Libya	Oman	PDRY/ Y.A.R.	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	U.A.E.	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. Carpenter	286	253	33	228	207	2310	19	240	2005	1787	17	7385	
2. Cook	247	18	—	42	5	1014	—	89	280	569	45	2309	
3. Driver	105	1495	8	284	138	892	—	133	3531	825	25	7536	
4. Electrician	90	99	6	261	53	944	12	42	885	554	29	2975	
5. Engineer	5	15	—	—	8	66	—	—	7	11	7	119	
6. Fixer/ Fabricator	57	16	11	45	32	995	6	70	761	536	10	2539	
7. Foreman	18	19	3	4	3	109	48	2	138	87	48	479	
8. Paramedical- staff	46	—	—	3	62	100	—	—	924	31	9	1175	
9. Labourers	2110	1771	200	1695	899	1564	197	1868	21537	10155	453	42449	
10. Mason	352	238	20	426	256	3736	26	252	2118	1463	58	8945	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11. Mechanics/ AC also	99	150	—	180	74	701	15	60	820	506	34	2639		
12. Office Staff	132	85	11	52	46	1315	—	26	263	966	2	2898		
13. Operator	24	147	1	88	43	291	—	36	242	121	16	1009		
14. Painter	82	9	1	16	24	789	—	30	343	328	6	1688		
15. Plumber	46	60	30	66	58	421	3	25	643	661	2	2015		
16. Tailor	284	—	4	8	—	817	—	39	1014	857	4	3027		
17. Technician	52	82	1	62	76	874	—	25	710	265	255	2402		
18. Welder	28	38	3	146	64	325	24	122	556	276	81	1663		
19. Others	1721	379	35	569	490	5092	—	960	4930	3213	2596	119985		
20. Surveyors	—	80	—	—	2	1	—	—	5	12	2	102		
21. Supervisors	—	86	—	—	12	34	—	1	92	—	4	229		
Total	5784	5040	367	4235	2552	22390	350	4020	41804	23323	3703	113568		

Statement-II
Category wise and country wise emigration clearances given during 1987

S.No.	Category	Bahrain	Iraq	Kuwait	Libya	Oman	Qatar	S. Arabia	U.A.E.	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Carpenter	310	101	403	226	744	274	2631	1528	144	6361
2.	Cook	271	55	319	26	908	71	702	432	135	2919
3.	Driver	106	118	376	106	608	106	3430	730	24	5604
4.	Electrician	124	54	312	122	449	116	1075	532	173	2957
5.	Engineer	8	19	33	10	36	5	61	44	16	232
6.	Fixer/ Fabricator	121	102	516	95	532	608	1818	1031	302	5125
7.	Foreman	14	24	43	16	129	18	368	138	32	782
8.	Paramedical Staff	26	42	35	5	266	3	290	817	139	1623
9.	Labourer/ Helper	2896	903	2485	785	1959	1825	30873	10280	788	52794
10.	Mason	338	122	550	200	1303	304	2801	1433	89	7140
11.	Mechanic/ AC also	140	76	182	95	519	70	1372	585	74	3113
12.	Office Staff	228	21	124	23	1881	88	950	1298	62	4675

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13. Operator	41	147	139	163	208	88	862	323	172	2143		
14. Painter	103	53	99	22	539	29	1100	397	121	2463		
15. Plumber	94	29	75	37	227	46	1177	245	26	1956		
16. Tailor	392	7	63	7	1262	59	1328	1084	10	4212		
17. Technician	38	66	272	59	166	41	974	279	250	2145		
18. Welder	90	39	110	46	154	23	643	297	122	1524		
19. Supervisor	73	70	88	17	319	65	719	262	81	1694		
20. Surveyor	—	2	—	1	2	—	49	10	5	69		
21. Salesman	21	—	78	—	345	7	59	242	5	757		
22. Housemaid/ Houseboy	60	—	51	—	189	7	6	388	45	746		
23. Others	1084	280	1001	211	3617	898	3946	2556	729	14322		
Total	6578	2330	7354	2272	16362	4751	57234	24931	3544	125356		

Production, Management and Distribution of Steel

***809. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH :**
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any specific steps during the last one year to improve the production, management and distribution of steel in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Some of these are—

- (i) Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and SAIL to improve SAIL's performance through greater delegation and operational freedom together with clear accountability.
- (ii) Encouraging a more productive work culture in public sector steel plants.
- (iii) Stepping up Steel production particularly of items in short supply.
- (iv) Permitting modernisation and expansion of mini-steel plants through a new licensing policy.
- (v) Improving customer service through a time bound supply scheme introduced by SAIL.
- (vi) Taking action for the modernisation of Durgapur, Rourkela and Burnpur Steel Plants to overcome their technical obsolescence and increase their production to their rated capacity.

Bonded Labour

***810. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :**
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem of bonded labour has not yet been solved fully;

(b) whether any voluntary organisations are also working for the release of the bonded labour in the country; and

(c) if so, their names and the details of assistance being given by Government to these organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. As per the reports received from the State Governments 2,24,562 bonded labourers have been identified upto 29.2.1988 out of which 1,98,508 have been rehabilitated leaving a balance of 26,054 bonded labourers to be rehabilitated.

Some Voluntary agencies are reported to be active in this field. A schemes for the involvement of Voluntary Agencies in the task of identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been launched on 30.10.1987. The Scheme provides for selection of voluntary agencies either by the Council for selection of voluntary agencies either by Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) or by the State Governments concerned. A copy of the Scheme is given below in the statement.

Statement

Plan Scheme for Involvement of voluntary Agencies for Identification and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers

Introduction

At present, the identification and rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers are secured through State Governments. However, the 20 Point Programme *inter-alia* envisages involvement of Voluntary Agencies in the work relating to identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Accordingly in consultation with the concerned interests, a Plan Scheme for involvement of Voluntary Agencies for identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been formulated. The Scheme is given below :

The Scheme

Identification/selection of Voluntary Agencies

Identification/selection of voluntary agencies would be done either by the State Government or by COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT OF PEOPLE'S ACTION AND RURAL TECHNOLOGY (CAPART).

While doing so they may keep in mind the following factors which are only in nature of guidelines :

- (i) The agency should be legal entity.
- (ii) It should be based in a rural area and be working for a minimum of three years.
- (iii) It should have broad based objectives serving the social and economic needs of the community as a whole and mainly the weaker Sections. It must not work for profit but on 'No Profit and No loss' basis.
- (iv) Its activities should be open to all citizens of India irrespective of religion, caste, creed, sex or race.
- (v) It should have the necessary flexibility professional competence and organisational skills to implement the programme.
- (vi) Its office-nearer should not be elected office bearers of any political party.
- (vii) It declares that it will adopt constitutional and non-violent means for rural development purposes.
- (viii) It is committed to secular and democratic concepts and methods of functioning. List of agencies identified by CAPART (State-wise/ Area-wise) will be sent both to the Ministry of Labour and to the State Governments concerned.

2. Identification of Bonded Labourers by the Identified/Selected Voluntary Agencies

(a) Identified/selected voluntary agencies would be responsible for identification as well as rehabilitation of bonded labourers. However, an agency can take up only identification or rehabilitation of bonded labourers, if it so desires.

(b) The voluntary agencies would submit lists of identified bonded labourers to competent authorities and pursue the matter till a decision of the authority as to whether persons mentioned by them are bonded labourers or not, is given and release certificates are issued.

(c) Agencies may also consider lodging a report with the Police in terms of provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 like any other individual.

3. Administrative Expenditure of Voluntary Agencies for work relating to bonded labourers

(a) Voluntary agencies would be paid managerial subsidy of Rs. 5,000 per annum. In addition, they will be paid Rs. 100 for each release order, in excess of 20, secured in a year subject to the condition that the total amount of subsidy and the amount for release orders will not exceed Rs. 10,000 in a year. This money is given to the Voluntary Agencies to meet its administrative expenses in various activities, relating to bonded labourers.

(b) The expenditure would be shared equally by the State Government and the Central Government.

(c) Payment will be made to voluntary agency by the State Government to the extent of its share and Central Grant would be released separately to the State Governments who would pass it on to the voluntary agency or CAPART.

OR

The Central share would be passed on to the CAPART who would in turn pass it on to the voluntary agency concerned. The State share will be obtained either by voluntary agency or by CAPART from the State Government.

4. Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers by Voluntary Agencies

(a) The voluntary agencies identified/ selected by the State Government and/or by CAPART, would submit projects for rehabilitation of bonded labourers to the District/Divisional/State Level Screening Committee.

(b) (i) The Central and the State Government share of assistance (upto a maximum of Rs. 6,250 per bonded labourer) would be placed at the disposal of voluntary agency by the State Government.

OR

(ii) The Central Share may be paid to the voluntary agencies by the Central Government through GAPART and the CAPART or the voluntary agency may claim State share from the State Government. In case they are not able to get this share, the shortfall will be met by the CAPART or the voluntary agency concerned. However in no case the assistance available for rehabilitation of a bonded labourer should be less than Rs. 6,250 (exclusive of the amount/facilities in kind available under other Government Schemes).

(c) The rehabilitation scheme would be integrated effectively with the other anti-poverty programmes and an integrated package approach would be adopted. The schemes/projects worked out by voluntary agencies would also conform to the guidelines/orders issued by Government from time to time.

5. Monitoring of the Identification and the rehabilitation programme

A Review Committee at the State Level headed by the Chief Secretary of some other Senior Officer would be constituted to review the progress in the identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers by the voluntary agencies. At least two representatives of voluntary agencies would also be nominated on this Committee. Voluntary Agencies will be required to carry out the directions/instructions/suggestions made by the Review Committee.

5.2. Voluntary Agencies would be reporting the progress in the matter of identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers to the District Authorities periodically; a copy of the progress report will also be sent to Member Secretary to the Review Committee mentioned above.

5.3. The Review Committee would meet atleast once in a year.

6. Identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers through voluntary agencies would be an additionality. State Governments would continue the work of identification and rehabilitation as at present.

Exploitation of Minerals

*811. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of different kinds of mineral deposite may be found in the country;

(b) whether any policy has been formulated for the optimal exploitation and utilisation of minerals in the country including mining of minerals from the sea-bed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this respect so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government's policy relating to exploitation and utilisation of minerals has evolved over the years and is reflected essentially in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 and the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957. To present the overall policy parameters relating to regulation of mines and mineral development, a draft national mineral policy statement has been prepared in regard to all minerals except fuel and atomic minerals. The draft policy aims at concerted action for survey exploration and evaluation of the mineral potential in our land and sea areas, particularly those in which the country is deficient or has just adequate reserves. Conservation, beneficiation, utilisation of associated minerals, recycling of minerals, research and development, backward and forward linkages, manpower development, development of infrastructural facilities and protection of environment will receive due consideration in the course of development of mineral resources of the country and their optimal exploitation and utilisation.

Out-board and In-board Motors

*812. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the import value (CIF value) of all types of outboard and inboard motors from

the range of 7.5 HP to 25 HP of kerosene oil/petrol/diesel driven required in the traditional fisheries sector and their respective ultimate selling price to traditional fisherman; and

(b) the extra subsidy given to the traditional fishermen against acquisition of outboard and inboard motors as fitment to country canoes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) The CIF cost and the selling price of some of the popular brands of outboard motors imported for fishing purpose are given below :

Brand & HP	CIF cost (Japanese Yen)	Selling price Excluding local taxes (Rs.)
1. Yamaha 7HP	108800	14778.60
2. Yamaha 12 & 14 HP	155100	25850.00
3. Suzuki 15 PH	138000	26600.00
4. Suzuki 25 HP	155000	35000.00

Inboard engines of eight and above horse power required for traditional fisheries sector are indigenously manufactured.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for motorisation of 5000 traditional craft during VII Plan which provides for 50% subsidy to be shared equally by Centre and State, subject to a maximum of Rs. 7500 per craft, is in operational.

Basic Amenities in Jhuggi-Jhonpari Basties in Delhi

*813. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names and locations of Jhuggi Jhonpari clusters in Delhi, the number of Jhonparies and residents in each of them;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the population of jhuggi dwellers during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many of these jhuggi clusters have basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, drainage clinic, approach roads and primary school under 'Operation Blackboard' and future plan of action by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See. No LT 6037/88]

Development of Dryland Farming

*814. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientists at the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) have identified seven priority measures for optimal utilisation of the rain-fed lands that constitute 70 per cent of the cultivated area in country.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main points of measures proposed to be taken to promote dryland farming?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The research work carried out at the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture and the All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture since 1970 have developed improved package of dry farming practices for increasing the productivity of dryland crops and income of dryland farmers. The major components of the improved practices are (i) choice of appropriate varieties and crops suited to the effective growing period for different agro-climatic regions; (ii) contingent crop substitution in case of aberrant weather situations; (iii) increasing cropping intensity by intercropping; and (iv) sequence cropping; (v) improved agricultural implements for soil conservation and cultural practices; (vi) water harvesting; (vii) alternative land use systems.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research efforts in promoting the improved practices of dryland farming are being carried out through 9 Operational Research Projects, Lab to Land Programme and providing technical support to 47 Model Watershed Projects. The Government of India have sanctioned in July 1986 a Centrally sponsored scheme on National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture covering 16 States with an outlay of Rs. 239 crores for the period from 1986-87 to 1989-90.

Promotions in ITDC

8186. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of executive and non-executive cadre employees of the ITDC which have been upgraded/promoted from April, 1985 to March, 1988 and the necessity thereof in each case;

(b) the number of executive and non-executive cadre employees which have not been promoted/upgraded during the same period alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees who have not been promoted even once who have put in more than 10 years of service in the same grade in ITDC establishments; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the stagnation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Selling of Plots in East Delhi

8187. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the explanations submitted by some allottees of plots in co-operative housing colonies in East Delhi such as Nirman Bihar, Swarshya Vihar, Defence Enclave etc. regarding selling their allotted plots on power of attorney have not been found satisfactory;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Delhi Development Authority in taking over physical possession of these plots;

(c) whether these plots will be handed back to the societies for allotment to other members on the waiting list; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). On the basis of complaint, show cause notices were issued by the DDA to the sub lessees for alleged benami sale of their plots. The reply in some cases were not found satisfactory. Sub-lease deeds of six plots of Nirman Vihar have since been determined. Sub-lessees of these six plots failed to hand over the possession of the plots to the DDA and therefore, ex-parte possession has been taken over and as per the policy, eviction proceedings under P.P. Act have also been initiated against them.

(c) and (d). As per the policy the plots revert back to the Society after determination of the sub-lease deed for allotment to the next eligible members recommended by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The possession of the plots will be handed over to the Society after eviction proceedings/legal formalities are completed.

Setting up of Ammonia and Urea Plants at Ambalamedu

8188. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up additional projects of ammonia and urea based on naptha and D.A.P. at Ambalamedu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in these projects; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) No, sir; there is at present, no proposal to set up additional projects of ammonia and urea at Ambalamedu.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Agricultural Implements

8189. SHRI H.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey on the adaptability and availability of mechanical agricultural implements for the use of small and marginal farmers;

(b) whether the prices of power tillers have skyrocketted and repair facilities and spare parts are also not available to farmers at resonable prices;

(c) whether norms have been fixed for procuring loans/grants for power tillers and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to encourage the small and marginal farmers and assist them in purchase of new and novel agricultural implements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Prices of power tillers of major manufacturers have increased by 5.62% to 12.07% during the period March, 1986—March 1988. The manufacturers have appointed dealers for sales, service and repairs. Besides, banks while sanctioning loans satisfy themselves that spare parts, repairs and after sale services are available in the scheme area.

(c) Yes, Sir, National Bank for Agriculture and rural Development has laid down norms which among others include (i) each beneficiary or group of beneficiaries shall have 6 acres of perenially irrigated land or corresponding acreage as prescribed for different categories of land under the concerned State Land Ceiling Act; (ii) it shall also be ensured that power tiller will have a minimum of 600 hours of productive work in agricultural per year own farm or both on own farm and on account of custom service; and (iii) it shall be ensured that at least 50% of the total amount required for repayment of instalment of loan together with interest will come from incremental income derived out of mechanisation of beneficiary's farm.

(d) Following steps have been taken :
 (I) Subsidy is provided to the small and marginal farmers for the purchase of improved implements under the schemes of (i) Establishment of Farmers Agro Service Centres for custom hiring and popularisation of improved agricultural implements; (ii) National Oilseed Development Project; (iii) Special Rice Production Programme; and (iv) Scheme for assistance to small and marginal farmers for increasing agricultural production.

(II) Government have applied concessional rates of excise duty on specified items of agricultural machinery. The concession available in regard to agricultural implements are :

- (1) There is no excise duty of power tillers;
- (2) Tractors having engine capacity not exceeding 1800 Cubic Centimeters (cc) are exempted from excise duty;
- (3) Power driven centrifugal pumps for handling water are exempted from excise duty; and
- (4) Mechanical appliances of a kind used in agriculture or horticulture; agricultural or horticultural machinery for soil preparation or cultivation; harvesting or threshing machinery; other agricultural horticultural, poultry keeping and bee keeping machinery; machines for cleaning, sorting or grading seeds; grains; electrical motors used in factory of production in the manufacture of submersible pumpsets or monoblock pumpsets are exempted from excise duty.

Holiday Homes in Hill Areas

8190. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to extend facilities to the retired Government servant to stay in Holiday Homes in hill areas on the same terms of other Government employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Retired Government employees are eligible to stay in the Holiday Homes at Simla and Mussorie on the same rental of Rs. 10 for Single room; Rs. 15 for double room; and Rs. 24 for four bed room as applicable to serving Central Government employees through out the years except for the season period of 15th April to 15th July.

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Child Workers

8191. SHRI P. PENCHALIAIH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the financial assistance to voluntary organisations working for the betterment of child workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The budget provision for this scheme is proposed to be increased from Rs. 10 lakhs in the 1987-88 to Rs. 18 lakhs in 1988-89.

Survey of Coastline to Find Out Sea-Bed Minerals

8192. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made to survey the coastline of India to find sea-bed minerals;

(b) the scheme taken in hand for the purpose;

(c) the areas which have been surveyed and the findings thereof; and

(d) whether the Maharashtra coast has been covered and if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) The off-shore areas of the country along the eastern and western coast lines are being surveyed by the Geological Survey

of India (GSI) by deploying two coastal research launches within the territorial waters and one research vessel within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Reconnoitry marine surveys have already been completed for about 46% of the EEZ. The GSI in collaboration with the Atomic Mineral Division (AMD) has a programme of resource evalution of placer mineral deposits of the continental shelf region, and with Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for geo-chemical monitoring for hydro-carbon seepages. The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has also been carrying out surveys in the continental shelf.

(b) The scheme taken in hand at present includes search for placer sands, geo-chemical scan for hydro-carbons and seabed mapping within the EEZ.

(c) The areas surveyed include the off-shore areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Pondicherry, Orissa and Andaman Islands. Some of the important findings are :

(i) Delineation of a promising area off Gopalpur, Orissa, for placer minerals *i.e.* Ilmenite, Zircon, Monazite and rutile and

(ii) Location of high grade calcareous sand in Lakshadweep islands.

(d) Yes, Sir. The surveys indicated Ilmenite deposits estimated to be around 12.5 million tonnes along the Konkan Coast. GSI has also carried out investigation for mercury off Arnala island.

Production of Cashewnuts

8193. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to step up production of cashew-nuts;

(b) whether Centre has prepared any strategy in this regard and forwarded to the State Government;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government of India has sanctioned a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on package programme for cashewnut development for implementation during the 7th Five Year Plan. The programmes covered under this scheme are intensive pest management practices, laying out demonstrations establishment of budwood nurseries, improvement of cashew by vegetative propagation etc. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 696 lakhs.

Improvements in Agriculture in Eastern Sector

8194. DR. C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Central and State Governments to improve agricultural production in Eastern Region; and

(b) whether there have been some improvements in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Special Rice Development Programme is being implemented in the Eastern States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal during the Seventh Five Year Plan, for improving production and productivity of rice. In addition the following Central/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in Various States including the Eastern States, for improving agricultural production :

I. Centrally sponsored Schemes ;

1. National Pulses Development Project;
2. Oilseeds Production Thrust Programme;
3. National Oilseeds Development Project;
4. Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers; and

5. Special Jute Development Programme.

II. Central Sector Scheme :

1. Minikit Programme of Rice, Wheat & Millets.

(b) Yes, Sir. The rice production in the Eastern States has gone up during 1985-86 and 1986-87 as compared to the base year of 1984-85.

Discontinuance of Import of Edible Oil

8195. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK ; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to discontinue the import of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA)) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Extensive Use of Insecticides

8196. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether intensive sales promotion campaigns by pesticide making firms and ignorance of farmers has resulted in the extensive use of insecticides by farmers;

(b) the estimated consumption of pesticides at present throughout the country;

(c) whether according to an expert study recently made, the DDT content in fact residues was the highest at 27 parts per million (PPM) in India;

(d) whether pesticides like DDT and Organo-chlorine insecticides, which retain their toxicity even after many years, pose a great danger to human beings and animals; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to check the high incidence of pesticides poisoning and bring home to the farmers the ill-effects of an indiscriminate use of pesticides and insecticides ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The estimated consumption of pesticides at present is around 55,000 MT in terms of technical grade pesticides.

(c) As per one of the study reports presented before the Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.N. Banerjee, ex-Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India, the mean DDI residue contents in human female fat were to the tune of 22.3 PPM.

(d) DDT and other Organo-chlorine insecticides persist for a long time in the environment. However, no definite conclusion has been drawn about the possibility of their greater danger to human beings and animals.

(e) The government is advocating safe and judicious use of pesticides to avoid any possible ill-effects of such chemicals. To avoid indiscriminate use of pesticides and insecticides the concept of Integrated Pest Management is being advocated for the benefit of farming community.

To help the users of pesticides to take safety precautions, the labels and leaflets accompanied with the container of pesticides carry all the necessary information in minimum of three languages, including one regional language. Besides, the extension functionaries of both Central and State Governments periodically organise training for the benefit of farmers to ensure judicious and safe use of pesticides.

Profit Earned by Aralam Farm, Cannanore

8197. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Aralam State Farm, Cannanore of the State Farm Corporation of

India is earning profit for the last three years, if so the details thereof;

(b) the details of development work modernisation programme introduced in Aralam Farm during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate developmental work in the farm during the year 1988-89 also, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the allocation made to the farm for 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Central State Farm, Aralam is earning profits for the last three years which are as under :

1984-85	+	Rs. 1.04 lakhs
1985-86	+	Rs. 2.47 lakhs
1986-87	+	Rs. 6.40 lakhs

(b) The details of development work/modernisation introduced in Aralam Farm during the last three years are given below in the statement I.

(c) The State Farms Corporation of India propose to initiate various developmental works in the Aralam Farm during the year 1988-89 which are given below in the statement II.

(d) The financial year of the Corporation starts from 1st July and ends on 30th June. Thus the tentative allocations for the year 1988-89 has been made which are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Revenue expenditure including deferred Revenue expenditure :	260.50
Capital Expenditure :	10.00

Statement-1

Infrastructure facilities for development at Central State Farm, Aralam, taken up during the last 3 years are as under :

	Sanctioned amount
	Rs.
1. Ammoniated Latex Lab	10000.00
2. Improvement of Workshop	39500.00
3. Lab-cum-Office	57000.00
4. Store in EPO	25000.00
5. Block Office	12000.00
6. Drawing Yard	7600.00
7. Construction of Green House	50000.00
8. Coconut Store	45000.00
9. Semi-permanent building under EPO	~13000.00
10. Construction of store in front of godown	15000.00
11. Construction of retail sales counter	75000.00
12. Modification of existing fertiliser store	30000.00
13. Construction of Latex Collection centre	25000.00
14. Copra Dryer	17000.00
15. Construction of store room	30000.00
16. Barbed wire fencing at the farm	145000.00
17. Pulsating current electric fencing	350000.00
18. Construction of Eddakayyalla	130000.00
19. Construction of Creche	42000.00
20. Guest House	128000.00
21. Construction of low-cost building	78000.00
22. Construction of 2 No. barracks	75000.00
23. Construction of semi-permanent building	10000.00
24. Construction of mess	20000.00
25. Water supply	30000.00
26. Construction of well in Block 11	10000.00
27. Construction of 6 irrigation schemes	650000.00
28. 10 irrigation schemes	100000.00
	Total
	2259100.00

The total sanctioned amount and the expenditure incurred for the last 3 years is as under :

	Sanctioned amount	Expenditure incurred
1984-85	7,59,100	6,97,020.50
1985-86	7,95,000	5,31,939.78
1986-87	7,05,000	5,53,759.35
	22,59,100	17,82,119.63

Execution of certain works like pulsating current electric fencing was delayed due to delay in import of materials.

Statement-II

For the year 1988-89 following works have been proposed for execution :

Capital Expenditure

	Rs. in lakhs
1. 29 irrigation schemes	30.00
2. Electricity line 7.7 KM	2.81
3. Construction of labour quarters	2.10
4. Construction of low cost building for Class II Officers	0.34
5. Construction of bridges	1.50
Total	Rs. 36.75 lakhs

Progress of Construction of VSP

8198. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTHY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any difficulties are envisaged by Government in completing the first phase and second phase of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant as per schedule;

(b) whether the delay is being caused by the actual supply of various equipment and machinery by any firm or public undertaking; and if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the slippage of time involved by such supplies and also the value of equipment which failed to be delivered on time; and

(d) the details of progress of construction including the Captive Power Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) According to present estimates, the work of construction of the first phase of the plant is likely to be completed as per schedule in the current year and of the second phase by the second half of 1990. Commencement of production this year will depend upon the timely completion of the Yeleru Water Supply Scheme by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

(b) and (c). While there have so far been some slippages in the delivery and erection schedule of plant and equipment by some suppliers, steps are being taken to ensure that these are made up so that the schedule of commissioning is not delayed on this account. It is not possible to assess the

value of delayed supplies as such slippages pertain mainly to components and sub-assemblies and not to the whole equipment.

(d) The progress in the major areas of construction, including captive power plant, upto the end of March, 1988 was as under :

Item of Work	Percentage fulfilment of the cumulative schedule of work
1. Concreting	100.7
2. Structural Fabrication	95.1
3. Ttructural Erection	90.4
4. Equipment Ordering	102.7
5. Equipment Erection	76.6
6. Refractory Ordering	101.4
7. Refractory Erection	81.7

Theileriosis Disease of Livestock in Karnataka

8199. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the livestock diseases such as theileriosis etc. are on the increase in Karnataka, causing severe economic loss to the farmers;

(b) if so, the steps taken to curb and control the diseases; and

(c) whether Union Government have chalked out any action plan to curb these diseases; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No such action plan has been chalked out for Karnataka by the Union Government.

Accommodation to Government Employees

8200. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of URBAN

DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on 30 November 1987 to Starred Question No. 333 regarding accommodation to Government employees and state :

(a) the details about the new construction of hostels and the regular type of residential accommodation to augment the general pool accommodation in Delhi during the first three years of the Seventh Plan alongwith the cost of these projects; and

(b) the details of the projects sanctioned for execution in this regard during the remaining two years of the Seventh Plan alongwith allocations for this purpose, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Tripartite Wage Agreement by Jute Mills

8201. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of jute mills in the private sector in West Bengal have not as yet implemented the tripartite wage pact signed on 25 February, 1988;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). According to information received from the Government of West Bengal, 9 Jute Mills in the private sector 5 of which are members of the IJMA have reportedly not implemented the agreement signed with the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) on 25.2.88 either fully or partially. The State Government have advised the IJMA to get their member mills implement the agreement. In case of other mills, the State Conciliation Machinery are taking steps to ensure early implementation of the agreement.

Public Hydrants in Lowns of Laxmi Bai Nagar

8202. SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that public hydrants in the lawns of type II quarters in Laxmi Bai Nagar, New Delhi are not in working order and the lawns have become dry and dirty; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to take to ensure proper functioning of the hydrants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Some of the hydrants have been damaged either by vehicles or by miscreants. Many hydrants have also gone dry due to shortage of water. Because of this, many of the lawns are dry and are also dirty in some places.

(b) Repairs to the damaged hydrants is expected to be completed within one month.

[Translation]

Development Programme of DDA for SC & ST

8203. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Slums/JJ Wing of the Delhi Development Authority receives grants from some sources;

(b) if so, the details of the sources indicating the amounts received during the last 3 years and the details of the works on which these amounts have been spent; separately;

(c) whether this amount has also been spent on the development and Welfare programmes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Slums/JJ Wing of DDA provides some more facilities to SC/ST as compared to the general categories; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The major activities of the Slum Wing DDA are funded through predetermined financial assistance received from Delhi Administration under annual plans.

(b) to (d). The requisite information is given below in the statement. In the allotment of plots/flats/shops/kiosks stalls by DDA 25% reservations is made for SC/STs.

(e) and (f). Slum Wing of DDA provides developmental facilities in the notified slum areas where both SC/ST and others live. Similarly under the scheme of night shelters the quantum of benefits flows to SC/ST and others. Again in the case of Scheme of Slum Clearance and Structural Improvement in Katras, any family affected by clearance operation is rehabilitated in the Slum Rehousing flats, etc.

Statement

Details of the Amount Released During the Last Three Years under Various Projects

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds Released During		
		1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Environmental Improvement in Jhuggi clusters	156.00	273.12	1300.00
2.	Environmental Improvement in Slum Areas	500.00	550.00	600.00
3.	Night Shelter	70.00	100.00	100.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Constt. of shops/stalls	25.00	187.00	—
5.	Conversion of dry latrine into water borne	40.00	50.00	—
6.	Construction of slum tenements in slum clearance Scheme	580.00	—	—
7.	Structural Imp. of Katras	50.00	70.00	70.00
8.	Providing deve : plots for self help housing to lower strata of society EWS including squatters linked with affordability	817.00	765.40	—

(English)**Enhancement of Essential Commodities to Punjab**

8204. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have enhanced the allocation of rice, wheat, palmolein, kerosene oil and other essential commodities to the drought affected backward areas of Punjab during 1987-88; and

(b) if so, the details of allocation made to different districts in that State ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). Allocation of various essential commodities to the States/UTs. including Punjab, are made from time to time taking into account the availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, Market availability, past lifting and other relevant factors. The position regarding the allocation of essential commodities to Punjab during the years 1987 and 1988 is given below :

	Wheat and Rice		(In 000 tonnes)	
	1987	1988	Allotment (Upto May)	Off-take (Upto Feb.)
Allotment	Off-take			
Wheat	155.0	1.4	50.0	1.2
Rice	18.0	3.6	7.5	1.1

In addition, 209,400 tonnes of wheat was allotted to Punjab for relief works during 1987-88.

Imported Edible Oils

Details of allocation of imported edible oil made to Punjab during 1987-88 are as follows :

Month	(in metric tonnes)
1	2
April-May, 1987	1050 each month
June, 1987	1250

1	2
July, 1987	1150
August-September, 1987	2000 each month
October, Nov. December 1987	2400 each month
January, 1988	2300
February, 1988	2000
March, 1988	1500

Kerosene Oil

As against the allocation of 2,50,285 tonnes of kerosene oil to Punjab during 1986-87, an allocation of 2,66,240 tonnes of kerosene oil was made to the State during 1987-88.

Soft Coke

Monthly allocation of soft coke to Punjab for the year 1987-88 is as under :

- (i) April, 1987 to September, 1987 1600 tonnes per month
- (ii) October, 1987 to March, 1988 1500 tonnes per month

A quantity of 3,300 tonnes of soft coke was supplied to Punjab during the period April, 1987 to February, 1988.

Levy Sugar

The monthly levy sugar quota to the States/UTs is allotted on a uniform norm of 425 gms. per capita availability on the basis of projected population as on 1.10.1986 and not on the basis of demand or request received from any State. No additional quantity is allotted to any State for meeting situations like drought, flood etc.

Controlled Cloth

Allocation of controlled cloth to Punjab has been increased during the financial year 1987-88 as under :

	Quota during	
	86-87	87-88
Cotton Controlled Cloth (in lac sq. meters)	24.81	108.74
Polyester Cotton Blended Shirting (in lac linear meters)	3.44	17.71

Once the essential commodities allotted by the Central Government are received by the State Government, further sub-allocations to various districts of the State is arranged by them.

Arecanut Cultivation in Karnataka and Kerala

8205. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government are aware that arecanut cultivation in Karnataka and Kerala is facing crisis due to sharp fall in prices; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save the arecanut cultivators ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The price of arecanut has improved both in Kerala and Karnataka by March, 1988.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation to Bihar under I D S. & M.T. and U B.S. Schemes

8206. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds allocated by Union Government to Government of Bihar under the schemes of integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns and Urban Basic Services for the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the amount released upto 31 March, 1987; and

(c) the break-up of the above-mentioned amount by towns ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Under the Scheme of I.D.S.M.T., Bihar has been allocated six towns during 7th Plan and each towns is eligible for a maximum assistance of Rs. 52 lakhs. including compulsory component of Rs. 6 lakhs for low cost sanitation, on matching basis. Besides, an amount of Rs. 8 lakhs can be made available for LCS works only, also on matching basis, if opted for. Actual release, however, depends on progress of implementation. Funds are also being released during 7th Plan for the on-going schemes from 6th Plan. The Scheme of urban Basic Services

(UBS) has been started in 1986-87 and a maximum amount of Rs. 22.9 lakhs can be made available to Bihar, depending on the progress of implementation, during the remaining years of the 7th Plan.

(b) and (c). A statement indicating

town-wise release of funds under IDSM to Bihar during the 7th Plan upto 31.3.87 is given below in the Statement. Under UBS, the Government of Bihar did not request for release of assistance during 1986-87; therefore, no funds were released upto 31st March, 1987.

Statement

Funds released during 7th Plan for various towns in Bihar under the Scheme of IDSM, as on 31.3.1987

Name of town	1985-86 (Rs. in lakhs)	1986-87
1. Begusarai	6.50	—
2. Deoghar	10.00	4.00
3. Siwan	27.22	—
4. Kishanganj	31.43	—
5. Sitamarhi	10.50	—
6. Buxer	10.00	10.00
7. Hajipur	—	5.00
8. Daltanganj	—	20.00
9. Chibasa	—	20.00
10. Hajaribagh	—	20.00
11. Giridih	—	9.00
12. Purnia	—	10.00
13. Nawadah	—	10.00
Total	95.65	108.00

[Translation]

Shortage of Funds with DDA

8207. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether DDA is facing financial difficulties because of its inability to realise the amount due to it on various accounts;

(b) if so, the amount recoverable under various main heads on 31 December, 1987;

(c) the action proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding dues; and

(d) whether the question of cancelling the lease of plots/flats for non-payment of dues is also being considered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir, to some extent, because DDA's funds are largely blocked in the allotment of houses under Hire-Purchase Scheme, arrears of recovery from the disposal of land and non-reimbursement of expenditure incurred on maintenance of resettlement colonies. The Government has since taken a decision to relieve DDA of its responsibility for maintenance of the resettlement colonies.

(b) The details of amount recoverable as on 31.12.87 under various heads are given below :

Position of recoverable Amount on account of Ground Rent of plots/flats on 31.12.87

	Amount (in lacs)
Nazul A/c I	120.13
Nazul A/c II	
(a) Commercial	111.97
(b) Industrial	83.51
(c) Institutional	8.94
(d) Residential including Rohine	218.73
(e) G.D.A.	218.00
(f) Co-operative Society Housing	27.11
	106.42
	894.81

Position of Recoverable amount on account of Premia of plots/flats as on 31.12.87.

	Amount (In lacs)
Nazul A/c I	35.21
Nazual A/c II	
(a) Residential	93.00
(b) Industrial	305.70
(c) Institutional	1420.40
(d) Commercial	435.22
(e) Rohini	76.25
G.D.A. Premia	
(a) Commercial	1441.07
(b) Housing	316.34
(c) Damages	884.14
(d) Shops	148.00
(e) Co-operative Societies	—
	515503

Note : Part of this amount has been recovered and the same is being settled by reconciliation.

(c) A recovery Cell in DDA has been formed which is taking action to settle/recover these dues.

(d) Yes, Sir. The question of cancelling the conveyance deed in respect of the flats is considered and action is taken due to non-payment of dues. The lease of a residential plot can be cancelled as per terms and conditions of lease deed. However, arrears/dues can be recovered by issuing non-recovery certificate under the signature of the Collector (Nazul), i.e. Secretary, DDA.

[*English*]

Essential inputs for Livestock/Cattle

8208. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the role played by the National Dairy Development Board in arranging supply of essential inputs for cattle/livestock, in the drought affected areas of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : Operation Flood is a dairy development Project and is not oriented, as such, towards short-term drought management. Through the Operation Flood Programme however, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) assists in creating infra-structural facilities for essential inputs to cooperative for better cattle care and managament. In respect of its role in fodder supply during the last drought, NDDB with the help of respective local milk unions organised procurement of paddy straw in Ludhiana and Jalandhar Districts of Punjab and Surat District of Gujarat in October-November, 1987 for distribution in cattle camps in Gujarat.

[*Translation*]

Proposal Regarding Construction of Houses by Allottees

8209. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government are aware that the buildings constructed by the DDA are of a very sub-standard quality;

(b) if so, the arrangements being made by Government so that (beneficiaries) allottees can get residential flats of good quality;

(c) whether Government propose to provide a facility of construction of houses by the allottees themselves on the plots of the land allotted to them for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Several complaints were received at various levels in DDA in which allegations were made that the buildings constructed by the DDA were of sub-standard quality.

These are received from individual and various Welfare Associations and the CTE's Organisations etc. under the Chief Vigilance Commission. On receipt of these complaints, Vigilance Department conducts investigations through technical cell and if allegations appear to be correct, departmental action is taken if warranted after the investigation are completed by the Vigilance Cell. Generally materials conforming to CPWD specifications and the relevant I.S.I. specifications are used in the works. Sub-standard materials if any are generally removed from the site and not allowed to be used since the sites are inspected by the field officers Chief Engineer (QC) and the Chief Technical Examiner. Samples of materials are also collected whenever required by the quality Cell and the results of analysis are communicated to the Field Officers. Remedial actions are taken as per the observations made by the various inspecting agencies. The field staff has also become quality conscious with the result, the flats being constructed now are quite comparable with those constructed by other similar organisations.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The lessees of the plots have to construct their houses on the plots allotted to them by the DDA after obtaining the sanction, building plans with necessary designs plans and specification from the proper Municipal or other Authority, at his

own expenses erect upon the residential building on it.

Registration of Property Dealers in Delhi

8210. SHRI ASHKARAN SANKHA-WAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of property dealers in Delhi has increased considerably during the last three years;

(b) whether these property dealers/ Estate Agents are registered with any authorised Government body, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that these property dealers charge heavy amounts as registration fees from their customers; if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). DDA and Delhi Administration are not doing any registration of property dealers or estate agents. Hence it is not possible to say whether their number has increased.

(c) The Government is not aware of it.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

[English]

Discovery of Limestone in Jaisalmer

8211. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a very large volume of limestone has been discovered in Jaisalmer area of Rajasthan State;

(b) if so, how much quantity of limestone has been estimated so far following the survey work conducted in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said limestone is of melting low silica variety which is used for purifying iron-ore resulting in finished steel;

(d) whether it is a fact that the said category of limestone is being imported from Japan involving crores of rupees in foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, whether the Union and State Governments are contemplating to submit the project report as well as take necessary steps for the utilization of the said limestone?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has estimated about 560 million tonnes of flux and chemical grade limestone down to one meter depth in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.

(c) A sizeable part of limestone is of low silica variety which is used for making steel in LD converters.

(d) The Steel Authority of India has imported about 19200 MT in 1986-87, and about 42500 MT in 1987-88. The CIF price during 1987-88 is approximately US \$ 16 per MT.

(e) The exploration for high grade limestone jointly by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corpn. (RSMDC) is in progress. The Rajasthan State Government, has also reserved all SMS limestone areas for exploration by the State Government.

Letters from Members of Parliament Regarding ITDC

8212. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters/memorandum received by the Ministry from the Members of Parliament pertaining to ITDC during April, 1987 to March, 1988;

(b) the number of letters to which replies were sent; and

(c) the number of letters to which replies are yet to be sent and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) 43 letters were received from sitting MPs in the office of the Ministry in respect of ITDC during April 1987 to March 1988.

(b) Replies were sent in respect of 14 letters.

(c) Replies were not sent in respect of 16 letters. Most of these letters related to recommendations for appointments; transfers etc. in ITDC. In such cases a reply was neither called for nor required. In the rest of the 13 cases matters are under process in the ITDC.

Industrial Units Closed in Kerala

8213. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial units lying closed in Kerala together with the period of closure;

(b) whether there is any industrial unit in the State where the workers are on strike for the last three years or more;

(c) if so, the name of the unit and the reasons of the lockout;

(d) the steps taken so far to get the lockout lifted and the strike withdrawn;

(e) whether any employees have died during the strike in the unit; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) According to latest available information in the Labour Bureau, the number of units permanently closed in Kerala was 4 in 1985, 2 in 1986 and 3 in 1987.

(b) to (d). According to the State Government, while there is no strike continuing for more than three years, the only establishment which is under lockout since 28.1.85 is the Ruby Rubber Works, Kottayam. The lockout was declared following strike by workers from 8.1.85 over their demands relating to categorisation of work. The Government of Kerala who are the appropriate authority under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 have referred the dispute for adjudication.

(e) and (f). Does not arise.

Ban on use of Pesticides

8214. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is large scale presence of toxic particles of pesticides in environment;

(b) if so, the number of pesticides banned or restricted but still used in general;

(c) what steps Government are taking to put a ban on the practice of using "Cosmetic pesticides" spray in fruits, vegetables and flowers; and

(d) what guidelines Government propose for safe use of pesticides ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) As per research carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the Agricultural Universities in various parts of the country; it is found that certain pesticides which are not bio-degradable easily are present in different components of the environment viz soil, water, crops etc.

(b) Under the Insecticides Act, 1968 the Registration Committee has refused registration of 18 pesticides, banned 2 for import, phased out 2 for use, and* restricted the use of 3 pesticides in the country. Before registering any pesticides to be used in this country, this Committee satisfies itself regarding the efficacy of the insecticides and its safety to human beings.

(c) It is not very clear as to what pesticides are being referred to. For the use of various pesticides on different crops, plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers, etc. including during storage, there are well-laid down instructions/ recommendations regarding the dosages, time of spray, waiting period between the spraying and marketing, etc. with a view to prevent any hazards.

(d) The Government has prescribed various statutory provisions under the Insecticides Rules, 1971 for the safe use of Pesticides. Besides, the integrated pest

management approach is being advocated for the safe and judicious use of pesticides. Training to the farmers is also being imparted by the extension functionaries of the Government for safe handling of pesticides.

Tolerance Limit for Pesticides

8215. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tolerance limits have been laid down for all pesticides cleared for use in Indian fields; and

(b) if not, the time by which this will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. The tolerance limits have been laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, for a total of 31 pesticides only.

(b) Tolerance limits are fixed by the Central Committee on Food Standards under the Ministry of Health and this is a continuous process.

Orchid Research Centres

8216. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of orchid research centres in the country and the location thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether there is abundance of orchids in the Similipal hill range of Northern Orissa; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to establish an orchid research and development centre at Similipal and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Nine research centres in India are engaged in Orchid Research. Details are given below in the statement.

(b) According to Botanical Survey of India only twenty common orchid species are reported from Similipal hill range of Orissa.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research proposes to establish a National Research Centre on Orchid during the VII Plan period. A Task Force for the same has been constituted. The report is awaited.

Statement

(a) Nine research centres in India are working on orchids, the State-wise location of these centres are given below :

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Orchid Research and Development Centre, Tippy, Arunachal Pradesh.

Karnataka

2. Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bangalore.

Kerala

3. Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Kerala.
4. Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, Trivandrum.

Meghalaya

5. National Orchidarium, Botanical Survey of India, Shillong, Meghalaya.

Tamil Nadu

6. Regional Research Station, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Yercaud, Tamil Nadu.
7. National Orchidarium, Botanical Survey of India, Yercaud, Tamil Nadu.

West Bengal

8. National Orchidarium, Botanical Survey of India, Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, West Bengal.
9. Regional Research Station of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalmpong, West Bengal.

Apart from the above, there are five orchid sanctuary/Orchid reserves at Sessa, Arunachal Pradesh, Appangla, Karnataka;

Takda, West Bengal; Deorali and Singlan, Sikkim.

[Translation]

Production Targets of Seeds

8217. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Seeds Corporation could not achieve the production target of seeds during 1987-88;

(b) if so, the total quantity of seeds produced in 1987-88 and the estimated target thereto;

(c) whether Government are taking some special steps to achieve the production target of certified seeds during 1988-89; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated production during the years 1987-88 is 4.21 lakh quintals of breeder, foundation and certified seed against the target of 6.43 lakh quintals.

(c) and (d). Following steps are being taken to achieve the production targets of certified seeds during 1988-89 :

(i) Region-wise targets for production of certified seeds have been already allocated. (ii) Arrangements for timely supply of foundation seed have been already made. (iii) Remunerative procurement of seeds from the contract growers in full. (iv) Progress for achieving the production targets is being regularly monitored.

[English]

Decrease in Man-days worked in Cashew Industry in Kerala

8218. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the hardships being faced by about two lakh workers

in the cashew industry in Kerala due to closure of many cashew factories and decrease in the number of mandays worked owing to the non-availability of raw cashew-nuts during the year; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give any incentives for cashew cultivations as a measure for increasing the production within the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) According to information received from Government of Kerala, during 1987, 79 Cashew factories affecting 33,670 workers were closed due to non-availability of cashew-nuts.

(b) The Government of India has sanctioned a centrally sponsored package scheme for increasing cashew production during the 7th Five Year Plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 696 lakhs. Of this, the share of Government of India is Rs. 481.54 lakhs. Under the Scheme subsidies are provided towards cost of plant protection chemicals, fresh planting and maintenance under area expansion programmes for small and marginal farmers, laying down demonstration plots, etc.

Regarding Aluminium Development & Design Centre

8219. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :**
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has recently informed Union Government that the laad required for the proposed Aluminium Development and Design Centre at Nagpur has been released; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposed centres is likely to be set up and commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Centres is likely to be set up and commissioned in five years time from the date of allotment of land. The centre will, however, start functioning from temporary premises very soon.

Import of Palm Oil

8220. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of palm oil imported during 1987-88 and the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(b) the countries from which it was imported ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) The quantity and landed cost of various types of Palm oils imported by State Trading Corporation of India during 1987-88 is as under :

Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Landed cost (Rs. in crores)
11.44 (Prov.)	902.08 (Prov.)

(b) Origin of oil is supplier's option. However, usually the countries of origin of Palm oils are Malaysia and Indonesia.

Soyabean Cultivation

8221. **SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :**
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI SRI HARI RAO :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to give incentives to farmers to step up the cultivation of soyabean in the country;

(b) if so, the States where soyabean cultivation is likely to be promoted;

(c) whether any additional funds have been allocated for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY

OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Two national projects, namely National Oilseed Development Project (NODP) and Oilseed Production Thrust Project (OPTP) are in operation in various states for the development of oilseeds including soyabean. Assistance is provided for the production of seed, plant protection measures, transfer of technology, supply of rhizobium etc. in order to step up production of soyabean.

(b) The States covered under NODP/OPTD for soyabean are Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Assam, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d). State-wise allocation made for Soyabean development under OPTD during 1988-89 is as follows :

State	Allocation (Rs. lakhs)
Madhya Pradesh	159.6
Rajasthan	24.4
Sikkim	4.5
Uttar Pradesh	9.04

In addition, funds are also provided for nine oilseeds crops including Soyabean under N.O.D.P.

Sale of Vanaspati in Delhi

8222. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total monthly consumption of vanaspati in Delhi;

(b) the monthly quantity produced by the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited at present;

(c) the quantity of vanaspati ghee produce by HVOC sold in the open market during 1987 and 1988 and how does it compare with the sale during 1984, 1985 and 1986; and

(d) whether the quality of vanaspati produced by the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited is not upto the mark; if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) The average monthly consumption of vanaspati in Delhi is around 6,500 MT.

(b) The month-wise production of vanaspati by Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation (HVOC) in the Oil Year 1987-88 (November to March, 1988) in Delhi has been as under—

Year	Production
Nov., 87	1528.470
Dec., 87	1148.850
Jan., 88	1158.840
Feb., 88	1093.905
March. 88	574.425
	5504.490

(c) The details of production of vanaspati and sale by HVOC in the open market in Delhi during the period 1984 to 1988 are as under—

	Production	Sale (Figures in MT)	
		Army	Civil
1984	20842.62	—	20970.43
1985	14455.609	3786.089	10099.196
1986	16935.18	11380.047	5641.27
1987	14870.219	7822.362	7261.965
1988 (Jan. to March)	2827.17	2449.801	402.6

(d) The vanaspati produced by HVOC is regularly checked for quality and has been found upto the mark as it conforms in quality to the specifications laid down for the purpose under Vegetable Oil Products (Standards of Quality) Order, 1975 and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Financial Assistance to Sugar Mills in Andhra Pradesh

8223. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial assistance for modernisation and renovation of sick sugar mills in that State;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance sought and the amount sanctioned for the purpose so far; and

(c) the details of amount proposed to be provided by the end of 1990?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Applications as and when received will be considered on merits under the provision of the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 and the guidelines on the subject.

Supply of Subsidised Jute Seeds

8224. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided to disburse Rs. 82.2 lakhs to the various jute growing States during the current season as a part of its programme to subsidise sale of certified jute seeds;

(b) if so, the names of jute growing States and the amount allocated to each; and

(c) the details of programme undertaken to boost the output of jute seeds and jute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Names of jute growing states vis-a-vis allocation made during 1988-89 under Special Jute Development Programme are as follows—

Name of States	Amount allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Assam	— 10.80
2. Bihar	— 11.40
3. Meghalaya	— 0.60
4. Orissa	— 6.60
5. Tripura	— 0.90
6. Uttar Pradesh	— 0.90
7. West Bengal	— 51.00
Total	82.20

(c) In order to boost the output of jute seeds, National Seeds Corporation, Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation and other State Seeds Corporations have been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure supply of certified seeds of jute. For increasing the production of jute, a Special Jute Development Programme, initiated in 1987-88, is being continued in all the seven major jute producing states also. Under this programme assistance is being provided to these states on (i) certified improved seeds, (ii) distribution of implements, (iii) Block demonstrations, (iv) Plant Protection chemicals/Soil ameliorants, (v) excavation of retting tanks, (vi) distribution of fungal culture packets and (vii) organisation of farmers training camps. The amount allocated under this programme during 1988-89 in respect of these seven jute producing states is Rs. 819.71 lakhs.

Civic Amenities in Chittaranjan Park

8225. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether little progress has been made in providing basic civic amenities for the residents living in Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The MCD have reported that all the basic amenities like roads, parks, electricity, water, sewerages, streetlighting etc. have been provided in Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi. Park sits in blocks G, J, K and I will be improved further shortly.

Decline in Shrimp Catches

8226. SHRI R.S. MANE ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28 February, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 928 regarding decline in shrimp catches and state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in shrimp catches despite an increase in the number of deep-sea fishing trawlers during 1987; if so; the details thereof;

(b) the number of days the fishing trawlers of the deep-sea variety have been lying idle;

(c) whether Government propose to make any ad hoc payment to the workers on these boats in view of the over capacity in shrimp fishing; and

(d) if not, the steps to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The production of panaeid shrimp from marine source exploited as commercial fishery during the last five years is given below —

Panaeid shrimp production
(in tonnes)

Year	State Governments/U.T's.
1982	108529
1983	105482
1984	115447
1985	108721
1986	109997

The figures above indicate that there is no fall in the panaeid shrimp production during the last five years. Besides, more than 90% of the panaeid shrimp production is contributed by traditional and small mechanised fishing boats and the contribution of deep sea fishing trawlers is small.

(b) No report has been made available to the Government indicating the number of days the trawlers have been lying idle.

(c) and (d). There is no evidence of over-capacity in marine shrimp fishing. Moreover, commercial deep sea fishing vessels are owned by private entrepreneurs and State Fisheries Corporations. Therefore, the question of making any ad-hoc payment by the Government to the workers does not arise.

Permission to Multi-National Companies for Baby Food

8227. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per guidelines issued by Union Government for expansion of capacities for manufacture of dairy products, private sector is not allowed to expand the milk products processing capacities;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which some multinational companies were granted permission to expand their manufacturing capacity of baby food in Punjab; and

(c) whether licences have also been granted to multinational companies in other States; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Multi-National Companies in other States have been granted licences for manufacture of milk products after finalisation of the revised guidelines.

[Translation]

Mining of Rock Phosphate in Udaipur

8228. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether large quantity of rock phosphate of high quality is being mined near Udaipur in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether it is being exported;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up any industry in Rajasthan based on this raw material; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal for setting up a fertilizer plant based on this mineral in Chittorgarh as plenty of water is available there and it is also connected with broad gauge railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). An application was received from M/s. Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited (RSML) for grant of an Industrial Licence for setting up a new undertaking for the manufacture of the following items at Chittorgarh in Rajasthan—

1. Di-Ammonium Phosphate Fertilizer	1,45,000 TPA
2. Phosphoric Acid Fertilizer	70,000 TPA
3. Sulphuric Acid Fertilizer	2,00,000 TPA

The application was rejected on 25.6.87 but RSML have represented against the rejection and have modified the proposal.

[English]

Adverse Effect of Amended Mines and Minerals Act on Mining Activities

8229. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) when the Mines and Minerals (Regulation Development) Act was amended last;

(b) how many applications for grant of new mining leases were pending before the Act was amended last;

(c) how many of those pending applications were approved with details thereof, State-wise and mine-wise;

(d) how many applications for grant of new mining leases were received after the said amendment was carried out to the Act, State-wise and mineral-wise;

(e) how many of these applications were cleared giving details thereof and the reasons for not granting approval to the remaining applications; and

(f) whether with the amendment to the various clauses of the Act, there is an adverse effect on the entrepreneurs for starting their mining activities, if so, the steps Government propose to take to encourage these entrepreneurs to carry out their mining activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 was amended last through the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1986 which was brought into force on 10.2.1987.

(b) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) Under the amended provisions, application for grant and renewal of mining lease has to be accompanied, among others, by a mining plan duly approved by the Central Government. Preparation of mining plan is necessary to ensure systematic and scientific development of mines and proper extraction of minerals with the least adverse effect on environment and ecology. While initially this could lead to some delay in the grant and renewal of leases, mining plan would be of considerable advantage in proper exploitation of the mineral resources of the leased are with due regard to environment and ecology.

In order to avoid hardship to prospective lessees because of this new provision, the Central Government has advised all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to allow six months time to the applicants to submit approved mining plans in respect of all mining lease applications filed upto December, 1987; and in respect of leases where renewal is being granted, the State Governments/Union

Territory Administrations could give working permission subject to the condition that approved mining plan would be submitted in six months time and that areas attracting the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and areas for which consent of the owner/occupier has not been produced would not be worked.

Upgradation of Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore

8231. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore won the National Council Award for Hotel Management;

(b) if so, whether is any proposal to upgrade the above Institute into a premier institution of the country;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce these courses in the various universities of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No such award has been instituted.

(b) The Institute has been upgraded to Diploma Level from Craft Level with effect from 1-1-1984.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to introduce degree courses in Hotel Management and Catering Technology in various Universities in the country.

Dryland Farming Research Institute

8232. SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI C. SAMBU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dryland farming research Institutes and stations in the country and their location there;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up any new research institute station in

Andhra pradesh; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a)

(i) There is one Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) located at Hyderabad.

(ii) Under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture, there are 22 research Stations representing different dryland situations in the country. A statement giving details is given below. The Coordinating Unit of the Project is functioning from CRIDA.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Since there is already a National Institute and an International Research Centre at Hyderabad (in the Telengana region) and a cooperative research centre at Anantapur in the Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh, the question of opening a new centre does not arise.

Statement

All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture has a Coordinated Unit and 22 Centre as under :

Andhra Pradesh

1. Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad.
2. Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Anantapur.

Bihar

3. Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi.

Gujarat

4. Gujarat Agricultural University, Dantwada.
5. Gujarat Agricultural University, Rajkot.

Haryana

- 6, Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar.

Jammu & Kashmir

7. Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture & Technology, Rakh Dhiansar.

Karnataka

8. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwar, Bijapur.

9. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

10. Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Bellary.

Madhya Pradesh

11. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Indore.

Maharashtra

12. Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Solapur.

13. Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola.

Orissa

14. Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar.

Punjab

15. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

Rajasthan

16. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Arjia.

17. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur.

Tamil Nadu

18. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Kovilpatti.

Uttar Pradesh

19. Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad.

20. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

21. Raja Balwant Singh College, Agra.

22. Indian Grassland Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi.

Japanese Assistance for Indian Iron and Steel Company

8233. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-level Indian Delegation visited Japan to discuss aid for Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached;

(c) if so, the time by which the aid for Indian Iron and Steel Company will commence; and

(d) whether it will be used for modernisation of the Indian Iron and Steel Company's plant at Burnpur in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d). Preliminary discussion have been held with the Japanese Authorities by a delegation led by Secretary (Steel) regarding their assistance in the modernisation of IISCO. The discussions covered aspects of financing as well as the transfer of steel making technology from the Japanese Steel Industry to IISCO as a part of the scheme of modernisation. Further discussions will be held with Japanese authorities before a final decision is taken. No time frame can be indicated at present.

*[Translation]**Allotment of LIG/MIG Flats to Handicapped Persons by DDA*

8234. SHRI R.P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has a scheme of out of turn allotment of MIG, LIG flats to the handicapped persons on priority basis;

(b) if so, the percentage of handicapped persons to which flats are allotted;

(c) the number of such applications pending for the last two years, the number of handicapped persons who were allotted flats and the percentage of the handicapped persons;

(d) whether the DDA propose to allot LIG flats to the persons whose disability is 55 per cent; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any priority list has been prepared for out of turn allotment of flats to the handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No application is pending, however, the following numbers of allotment have been made during the last two years :

Year	General Housing Scheme					
	M.I.G.		L.I.G.			
Total flats allotted	Flats of P.H.	%	Total flats allotted	Flats to P.H	%	
1986	861	5	0.58	1103	2	0.018
1987	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
			N.P.R.S., 1979			
1986	1593	12	0.76	3426	5	0.14
1987	4840	27	0.55	2682	27	1%

(d) Yes, Sir, in accordance with policy guidelines.

(e) No Sir. Only a chronological register is maintained in respect of out of turn allotments.

(English)

National Institute of Urban Affairs

8235. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute of Urban Affairs has undertaken any studies with regard to urban slums;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Other agencies have carried out such studies.

CRIDA's Contribution for Dryland Farming

8236. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) has developed new techniques for increasing the productivity of dryland crops such as Jower, Moong, Soyabean, Sunflower and Mustard;

(b) if so, the enhanced productivity likely to be achieved in this regard;

(c) whether any new techniques has been evolved for increasing productivity of groundnut in dryland farming areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been established that by the adoption of the recommended improved dry farming practices, the productivity can be increased by 100-200 per cent.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The improved techniques advocated for increasing the productivity of groundnut include cultivation of the recommended varieties, seed treatment, application of rhizobial culture, application of calcium and sulphur in the

form of gypsum at the rate of 500 kg/ha. Adoption of intercropping of groundnut with pigeon pea in Rayal Seema Region are recommended.

[*Translation*]

Edible Oil Import from Malaysia

8237. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of edible oils purchased and imported from Malaysia by the State

Trading Corporation of India during 1986-87 and 1987-88 separately; and

(b) the details of the expenditure and also the per quintal expenditure incurred on the import of edible oils ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). The quantity and value of various types of Palm oils imported from Malaysia by the State Trading Corporation of India during financial year 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as under :

Financial year	Quantity imported (in lakhs MTs)	Approximate landed cost (Rs. in crores)
1986-87	8.49	485.86
1987-88 (Prov.)	10.81	850.62

The quantity and value of various types of Palm oils purchased irrespective of the countries during financial year 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as under :

Financial Year	Quantity purchased (in lakh MTs)	CIF Value (Rs. in crores)
1986-87	9.33	369.58
1987-88 (Prov.)	11.61	588.69

The average landed cost of Palm oils per quintal during financial year 1986-87 and 1987-88 is Rs. 572 and Rs. 787 respectively.

Origin of oil is supplier's option. However, usually the countries of origin of Palm oils are Malaysia and Indonesia.

[*English*]

Setting up of Ropeway

8238. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a ropeway to provide joyride to the children in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof such as cost, site etc.

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed and started; and

(d) whether the joyride for the children would be charged or free of cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (d). Delhi Tourism Development Corporation (DTDC) has a proposal to set up a ropeway to provide to children in Delhi and its surrounding areas. The project will, however, be implemented depending upon the feasibility report, availability of funds, inter-se priorities, etc.

Bringing Pesticides under Essential Commodities Act

8239. SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has urged Union Government to bring pesticides under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act in order to deter sale of spurious stuff; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pesticides are covered under the item "Insecticides, Fungicides, Weedicides and the like" already declared as an Essential Commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been accordingly informed in the matter.

[*Translation*]

Distress Sale of Potatoes

8240. SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are selling potatoes at very low prices in some parts of the country as potatoes have not been purchased by NAFED;

(b) if not, the names of the places where NAFED has purchased potatoes, the quantity purchased and the complete details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to ensure that the farmers get reasonable price for their produce through NAFED ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (c). Prices of potatoes in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana have stabilised and the farmers are getting fair return of their produce during the current season. In U.P., prices were ruling quite firm up to first fortnight of March; thereafter the prices have shown a declining trend. Under the market intervention scheme for potatoes in U.P. launched at the instance of the State Government of U.P., the NAFED have purchased 1403 MTs of potatoes in five districts of U.P., at the declared market intervention price of Rs. 70 per quintal for

the white and Rs. 60 per quintal for the red variety of potatoes of fair average quality in the following districts with the quantities shown against each Centre :

	Quantities in MTs
Lucknow	— 399.0
Badaun	— 507.2
Farrukhabad	— 133.8
Unnao	— 127.8
Bareilly	— 235.5
Total	1403.3

[*English*]

Income and Expenditure of Delhi School Teachers' Cooperative House Building Society

8241. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of income and expenditure of Delhi School Teachers' Cooperative House Building Society Ltd. for the last five years, year-wise and head-wise;

(b) whether the annual accounts of this society are audited as prescribed under the law, if so, the names of the auditors;

(c) the salient points in the audit reports and the reply of the management thereto;

(d) whether the same auditors are continuing since 1975 or there has been a change; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Voluntary Organisation Getting Aid

8242. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : SHRI U.H. PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether some voluntary organisations in Gujarat State are receiving financial aid for various welfare programmes;

(b) the criterion and procedure for providing aid to such organisations; and

(c) the details of such organisations in Gujarat which received aid during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Guidelines have been laid down by this Ministry for grant of financial assistance to voluntary organisations. Project proposals received from voluntary organisations are considered in the light of aforesaid guidelines and releases of funds are made in accordance with the General Financial Rules and other relevant instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time.

(c) The Self Employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad.

Scarcity of Baby Food in Orissa

8243. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the scarcity of Amul Spray and the other baby food in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure regular supply of Amul Spray and other baby food to the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Increase in Cost of Flats of Shalimar Bagh

8244. SHRI A.C. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep rise, to the extent of 65 per cent against the normal inflationary trend of about 10 per cent in a year, in the cost of flats allotted

by the D.D.A. recently in Shalimar Bagh (C.C. Block) under the New Pattern HUDCO Scheme, 1979 as compared to similar flats in the same colony;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT SHRI (DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The disposal cost of DDA flats in a particular scheme is worked out, when the scheme gets completed, on the basis of actual expenditure incurred on no profit no loss basis, as per the prescribed formula. It depends upon the Plinth Area, design, specification etc. and the rate at which the work is awarded to the contractor. It also takes into account the extra expenditure on arbitration and litigation, normal escalation and soil conditions. The cost range in respect of MIG flats in Shalimar Bagh allotted in the year 1985-86 and those allotted in 1987-88 came out as under :

Year	Plinth Area range	Cost range
1985-86	64.21 to 67.84 sq. mt.	Rs. 83,600 to Rs. 99,700
1987-88	68.34 to 83.31 sq. mt.	Rs 1,44,500 to Rs. 1,64,100

(c) Efforts are made to reduce the cost of construction of flats by DDA. But if the cost goes up, it has to be recovered from the allottees.

Increase in Instalment of MIG Flats Under Hire Purchase Scheme

8245. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the monthly instalment of MIG flats (HUDCO) under the hire purchase scheme where the income range of the registrants is between Rs. 601-1500 p.m. has been increased by Rs. 1000 approximately;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to alleviate the hardship being faced

by the registrants in payment of instalments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The income criterion for eligibility for MIG category (HUDCO) was fixed in 1979 based on the income for the preceding year of Registration *viz.* 1978-79. The income of the registrants has also gone up during this period. HUDCO has also revised the income range in December, 1985 as below:

MIG Rs. 1501 to 2500 p.m.

LIG Rs. 701 to Rs. 1500 p.m.

EWS Upto Rs. 700 p.m.

The range of monthly instalment for MIG flats (HUDCO) in the year 1980-81 was raised from Rs. 720.55 to Rs. 966 and in the year 1987-88 it was further raised from Rs. 1162 to Rs. 2112. The increase in the monthly instalment is due to the higher cost of construction, because of rise in the cost of labour and material etc. The C.P.W.D. cost index has also gone up from 176 in the year 1980 to 370 in the year 1987 based on the cost index 100 in the year 1976.

(c) No action is required to be taken by Government, because cost of construction has to be recovered from the allottees of the flats. Thus if cost of construction goes up, the amount of monthly instalment has to go up.

[Translation]

Installation of Tubewells in Gujarat

8246. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tubewells installed for supply of drinking water in drought affected areas of Gujarat and the number of tubewells, out of them, which are in working condition; and

(b) the quantity of wheat supplied to the State for the labourers engaged in the relief operations in drought affected areas of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOP-

MENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) 8649 bores have been drilled in drought affected areas of Gujarat in 1987-88 out of which 7388 are successful and 5992 have been commissioned by installation of hand/power pumps.

(b) Government of India had allotted one lakh metric tonne of wheat to the State Government for payment of wages to the labourers engaged in relief operations in drought affected areas of Gujarat.

[English]

Distress Among High Grade Cotton Growers due to Pests

8247. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lot of distress among farmers who are cultivating high grade cotton because of drought and pests;

(b) whether it is a fact that the pesticides that are being supplied are of inferior quality and sometimes adulterated and thereby not acting on pests, leading to huge damage to cotton crop; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to rescue the farmers from this affliction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) There have been some reports of distress of farmers in certain cotton growing areas of Andhra Pradesh on account of loss of cotton crop due to drought, recurrent cyclonic rains and pest attack etc.

(b) There have been no reports of widespread supply of inferior quality and adulterated pesticides in the country. However, there were some reports to this effect in some areas of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government have undertaken measures for strict enforcement of quality control under the provisions of the Insecticides Act.

(c) The Scientific Panel of Entomology of ICAR has made short-term and long-term recommendations to overcome the problems encountered in Andhra Pradesh,

Steps taken/recommended by Government include evolving of cotton varieties, which are tolerant to pests, through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research; introduction of crop diversification programmes; intensification of pest surveillance systems; introduction of Integrated Pest Management; proper education of farmers and better use of pesticides and intensification of quality control measures with regard to pesticides.

In so far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the State Government have reported that they have taken a number of steps to mitigate the sufferings of cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh in 1987-88. These include, conversion of short-term loans into medium term loans with repayment spread over a period of three years commencing from January, 1989, deferring of payment of interest on converted loans, waiver of interest in excess of the principal amount, stoppage of auction of gold hypothecated as security to banks, and assistance to the affected farmers in starting subsidiary occupations, such as, dairying etc.

Explosion in Bhilai Steel Plant

8248. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there was an explosion recently in Bhilai Steel Plant;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the number of persons injured; and
- (d) the details of the other damages and losses sustained by the plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir. An explosion took place on 25.3.1988 in the Clean Gas Main feeding the Coke Oven Battery No. 9 of Bhilai Steel Plant.

(b) A Plant level enquiry committee is currently investigating the causes of the explosion. These will be known after the Committee has submitted its findings.

(c) Three persons sustained injury. Of these, two persons were discharged from hospital after first aid and the third on 2.4.1988.

(d) As a result of explosion, the clean gas pipe line and the tar precipitator for Coke Oven Battery No. 9 complex got damaged which after repairs were restored to normalcy by 28.3.1988.

From March 25 to 27, 1988 the estimated production loss was 4860 tonnes of finished steel.

Crash in Arecanut Prices

8249. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether about 6 lakh arecanut growers in Kerala and Karnataka have been put to severe financial stringency due to the crash in prices during the last two years;

(b) if so, the extent to which the prices crashed during the last three years;

(c) the main reasons for the crash in prices;

(d) the steps being taken to improve the situation;

(e) the extent to which the arecanut growers in Kerala, Karnataka and Assam have suffered; and

(f) the measures being considered to help these growers ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) and (b). Arecanut price which had fallen down since 1986 has improved considerably by March, 1988. The month end whole sale price of arecanut in the main market, Mangalore which was Rs. 2,332 in March, 1986 and had gone down to Rs. 1,852 in March, 1987, has increased to Rs. 1,972 in March, 1988 per quintal.

(c) One of the important reasons for the fall in price is the increase in production of arecanut in the country.

(d) Other than improving the marketing system for arecanut in the country, efforts are being made to export arecanut to Pakistan.

(e) and (f). No specific report has been received from State Governments in this regard.

Discount in Fertilizer Prices

8250. DR. B.L. SHAILESH :
SHRI T. BALA GOUD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fertilizer companies in public and private sector have been directed to provide 7.5 per cent discount over notified prices for the Kharif and Rabi seasons of 1988-89 to the farmers;

(b) if so, the response from these companies;

(c) whether Government are considering any mechanism to cover the losses that will arise as a result of its decision to give a 7.5 per cent discount over the notified fertiliser prices to the farmers for the coming Kharif and Rabi seasons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) Fertilizer companies have been directed to offer discount of 7.5 per cent with effect from April 1, 1988 over notified retail prices of urea.

(b) The fertiliser industry has assured of full cooperation in ensuring that the entire discount is passed on to the farmers.

(c) and (d). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Sail Plans for Transportation of Iron and Steel by Road

8251. DR B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) propose to set up a company in the joint sector to undertake the transportation of iron and steel materials from its plants to the various destinations by road to supplement their existing transportation by the Railways;

(b) if so, the other partners of Steel Authority of India Limited in this venture;

(c) the capital outlay and the share capital of the partners;

(d) the location of its headquarters; and

(e) how far its freight structure be at par with that of the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (e). SAIL has such a proposal under consideration. However, the details are yet to be worked out.

ICAR's Hybrid Rice Production Programme

8252. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has launched an ambitious intensive hybrid rice production programme;

(b) if so, the areas to be brought under hybrid rice cultivation particularly in the Eastern U.P.; and

(c) the technical and financial assistance proposed to be rendered to the concerned States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has intensified research an development of hybrid rice at six selected research centres of the country.

(b) Comprehensive yield trials of F₁ hybrids are planned to be conducted during Kharif 1988 after which a view will be taken about their suitability and adaptation, to specific regions.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is providing technical assistance through All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project. The financial assistance being provided to the different centres for hybrid rice development is Rs. 7.564 lakhs.

Sail Programme of Communication System

8253. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has launched an ambitious multi-faced programme to revolutionise its communication system within a year;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the estimated capital outlay involved;

(c) the beneficial results achieved thereby so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special Communication systems are being introduced in SAIL's Voice Communication Network on leased circuits from the department of telecommunications. SAIL's Data Communication Network, which is satellite based, will supplement the Voice Communication Network.

SAIL has also initiated action for setting up a Radio Communication Network for its captive mines located in the Bonai range near Rourkela. This will provide simultaneous voice and data communication over this area.

The above new communication systems in its first phase are estimated to cost around Rs. 3 crores.

(c) The beneficial results from the new communication systems will be known after they are made operational by end of 1988.

Construction of Modern Stock Yards at Madras and Cochin

8254. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited propose to construct modern stockyards at Madras and Cochin at a cost of Rs. 30 crores, to meet the raw material requirements of industries in the southern region;

(b) whether the requirement of steel items in the southern region is likely to reach one million tonnes shortly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) SAIL is developing a stockyard at Madras at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crores. Acquisition proceedings are also on for a suitable plot of land near Cochin.

(b) and (c). Demand estimates of steel items are not maintained on a regional basis.

Shortage of Pig Iron

8255. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL .

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of pig iron in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the annual demand of pig iron in the country;

(c) whether the production of pig iron is much less than the demand and a large quantity of pig iron is being imported;

(d) whether a large number of small scale units have been closed down due to non-availability of pig iron; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The annual estimated demand, production and canalised imports of pig iron during the last 3 years have been as follows—

(1000 tonnes)

Year	Estimated Demand	Production	Canalised imports through MMTC
1985-86	1470	1250	Nil
1986-87	1540	1358	14
1987-88	1500	1302 (Prov.)	18

(d) and (e). No such specific reports have been received by the Government.

Development of Dryland Farming

8256. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big scope to develop dryland farming in the country;

(b) if so, the crops which can be produced on dryland;

(c) the plan chalked out for development of dry farming in the country, if any; and

(d) the statewise area which has been brought under the dryland farming programme so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main crops which are produced on dryland areas are coarse cereals like jowar, bajra and maize, rice, gram and other pulses; oilseeds like groundnut, rapeseed and mustard, cotton, etc.

(c) A number of programmes have been taken up during VII Plan under the State and Central Sectors for the development of dryland farming. This includes the recently launched (1986-87) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rained Agriculture at a total outlay of Rs. 239 crores.

(d) The State-wise targeted coverage of area under this scheme during the last two years is as under—

S. No.	State	Targeted coverage of area during 1986-87 and 1987-88 (hectares)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29,442
2.	Assam	1,600
3.	Bihar	4,000

1	2	3
4. Gujarat		16,000
5. Haryana		4,465
6. Himachal Pradesh		482
7. Karnataka		60,654
8. Kerala		1,800
9. Madhya Pradesh		7,700
10. Maharashtra		76,202
11. Orissa		1,398
12. Punjab		1,535
13. Rajasthan		11,209
14. Tamil Nadu		5,000
15. Uttar Pradesh		24,701
16. West Bengal		564
Total		2,46,753

Potato Production

8257. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the main potato growing States in the country;

(b) the potato harvest projected for the year 1987;

(c) whether drought has caused any damage to potato harvest during 1987; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh etc. are main potato growing States in the country.

(b) to (d), Official estimate of production of potato during 1987-88 are yet to become available from the States.

U.S. Grants to Agricultural Universities

8258. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. Government have awarded any grants to agricultural universities in the country;

(b) if so, the name of those universities and the amount of grants awarded to each of them; and

(c) the purpose for which the grants were given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total amount awarded for 39 projects to Agricultural Universities in the country from U.S. India Fund (PL-480) is Rs. 3.7 crores. The details may kindly be seen in the statement given below.

(c) The purpose of the grants given to Agricultural Universities is to support collaborative Agricultural Research in India of mutual benefit to both the countries.

Statement

U.S. Grants to Agricultural Universities (U.S. India Fund)

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of Agricultural University	Amount of grants awarded (in rupees)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad	15,36,926
2.	Bihar	(i) Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur. (ii) Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (Bihar).	19,78,831 7,09,526
3.	Gujarat	Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat	23,54,000
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur	8,67,300
5.	Haryana	Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar	52,88,156
6.	Karnataka	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore/Dharwad	41,60,902
7.	Kerala	Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur.	22,75,626
8.	Maharashtra	(i) Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. (ii) Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri	20,87,000 5,62,584
9.	Orissa	Orissa University of Agricultural and Technology, Bhubaneswar	7,09,526

1	2	3	4
10. Punjab		Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.	94,85,836
11. Tamil Nadu		Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	8,99,393
12. Uttar Pradesh		(i) C.S.A. University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur	25,42,695
		(ii) G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar.	15,31,760
		Total	3,69,90,062
			or Rs. 3.70 Crores.

New Agricultural University for Karnataka

8259. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up any new Agricultural universities, agriculture colleges in the Central universities, agriculture colleges affiliated to general universities and deemed to be universities institutions in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any such agricultural university is proposed to be set up in Karnataka during 1988-89; if so, the place identified for location thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) No, Sir. However the proposals to grant deemed-to-be-university status to National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Bombay are under consideration with the University Grants Commission.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise

Allocation of Imported Edible Oil to Orissa

8260. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of imported edible oil supplies to Orissa during 1987 and during the current year so far for fair price shops and the vanaspati industry;

(b) the details of quantity urged upon by Government of Orissa and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any restriction on the movement of vanaspati ghee and refined edible oils from one State to another; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) The quantum of imported edible oils allocated to Orissa under Public Distribution System during 1987 and 1988 (upto April, 1988) was 30650 MTS and 8600 MTS respectively. No allocation was made to vanaspati industry as there is no vanaspati unit in production in Orissa.

(b) The Orissa Government have made a demand of 12000 MTS per month for oil year 1987-88. The allocation of imported edible oils to State Governments/Union Territories is made by Central Government from month to month on the basis of the demand, prices of indigenous edible oils in

the open market, availability of oils with State Trading Corporation; festival season and pace of lifting by States/Union Territories.

(c) There is no restriction on the inter-state movement of vanaspati and refined edible oils.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Factories Amendment Act, 1987

8261. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given on 17 August, 1987 to Starred Question No. 301 regarding identification of workers related diseases and state :

(a) whether the Factories Amendment Act, 1987 has been implemented;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which this Act is expected to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). All provisions of the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1987 (except those contained in new Sections 7-B and 41-F) have been enforced with effect from 1st December, 1987. The amendment to the schedule containing list of notifiable diseases has also come into force with effect from the same date. The provisions contained in new Sections 7-B and 41-F will come into force with effect from 1st June, 1988.

Minimum Wages

8262. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any violations of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 alongwith the recommendations of the Labour Ministers Conference held in 1930 and May, 1987 have been brought to the

notice of the Union Government during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union/State Government on the violation;

(d) whether a revision of the rates of the wages in every two years or on a rise of 50 points of the Consumer Price Index number which is ever earlier, has been carried out by the Union Government Departments and Central Public Undertakings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). The recommendations of Labour Ministers' Conferences held in July, 1980 and May, 1987 were brought to the notice of all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government/State Governments/Union Territory Administrations takes appropriate action under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 whenever any complaint about the violation of the Act is received or comes to its notice. The Central Government during the period 1985-87 launched 13873 prosecution cases and filed 3030 claims against the defaulting employers under the Act. Information in respect of State Governments/UT Administrations is not maintained.

(d) and (e). The State Labour Ministers' Conference of July, 1980 recommended that Minimum Wages should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, once at least in two years or on a rise of 50 points in the Consumer Price Index Numbers, whichever is earlier. This recommendation is kept in view for revision of rates of minimum wages in the scheduled employments. The last revision of wages was done by the Central Government in October, 1986. The Minimum wages as revised in October, 1986 are as under ;

Mining Employments

Category	Above Ground	Below Ground
(i) Unskilled	Rs. 12.25 p.d.	Rs. 14.75 p.d.
(ii) Semi-skilled/unskilled supervisory	Rs. 12.25 p.d.	Rs. 18.25 p.d.
(iii) Skilled	Rs. 19.00 p.d.	Rs. 22.50 p.d.
(iv) Clerical	Rs. 19.00 p.d.	—

Construction Employments

(i) Unskilled	Rs. 9.50 to Rs. 14.25 p.d. according to areas.
(ii) Semi-skilled	Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 17.50 p.d. according to areas.
(iii) Skilled and Clerical	Rs. 15.00 to Rs. 22.25 p.d. according to areas.
(iv) Highly skilled	Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 27.75 p.d. according to areas.

Regularisation of Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi

8263. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on 24 November, 1986 to Unstarred Question No. 3106 and on 27 April, 1987 to Unstarred Question No. 8095 regarding regularisation of unauthorised colonies in Delhi and state :

(a) whether any fresh survey has been carried out by the MCD and DDA of the new un-authorised colonies that have come up after 1977;

(b) if so, the names of these colonies and the plan for their regularisation; and

(c) the exact decision on the remaining 5 colonies (out of those survey till 1977) for their regularisation and names thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The latest position regarding the remaining 5 colonies, namely, Om Vihar (Uttam Nagar), Sawan Park Extension and Harijan Colony, Sadhora Kalan Chowki No., Arya Nagar and Nai Basti Harijan Colony is as under :

The regularisation plan of Om Vihar (Uttam Nagar) has since been approved by the Standing Committee of the MCD. The

draft regularisation plan in respect of remaining 4 colonies is under process.

Removal of Unauthorised Encroachment from Ladakh Buddhist Vihar

8264. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on 30 November, 1987 to Starred Question No. 350 regarding removal of unauthorised encroachment from Ladakh Buddhist Vihar and state :

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government for the removal of illegal constructions in the premises of Ladakh Buddhist Vihar; Delhi, so far; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). DDA made some attempts to remove the illegal construction around Budh Vihar. However, they could not succeed so far due to resistance from the encroachers.

[Translation]**R and D Centres for Fruits**

8265. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the provision made in the annual Plan of 1988-89 for the research and development institutes for fruits grown in tempe-

rate climate under the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the progress made in the setting up of the research institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) It is proposed to establish a Centrel Institute for Temperate Horticulture during the Seventh Five Year Plan. A sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been earmarked in the annual Plan 1988-89 budget of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) A Task Force consisting of eminent experts in the field of horticulture was constituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to suggest research programmes, location and requirement of infrastructural facilities for the proposed Institute. The report of the task force is under examination.

[English]

Allocation for Coconut Production under Drought Relief

8266. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have released the sum under drought relief measure to boost coconut production in the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu for 1988-89;

(b) if so, the total amount released to each of the States; and

(c) the schemes that will be considered for the development of coconut production in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No decision on implementation of this programme proposed by the Coconut Development Board has been taken.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Incidence of Gas Leakage

8267. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of gas leakage incidents that took place during 1987 and the first three months of the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons affected and killed in each case;

(c) the action taken against the companies responsible for gas leakages; and

(d) whether any strict instructions have been issued to the companies manufacturing/using dangerous gases in view of Bhopal gas tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Accidents in Coal Mines in West Bengal

8268. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that took place in each of the coal mines in West Bengal during 1986-87 and 1987-88, upto date;

(b) the number of persons who lost their lives and the amount of compensation paid in each case; and

(c) the details of measures taken to minimise these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). The number of accidents that took place in each of the coal mines in West Bengal during 1987-88 and 1987-88 (upto 31st March, 1988) and the number of persons who lost their lives in these accidents are given in the Statement below. Compensation is paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 which is administered by the State Governments and Union Territories. Information in this regard is not maintained,

(c) Provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad inspect the mines periodically in order to enforce the statutory pro-

visions and take appropriate action as provided in the Mines Act, 1952, against the persons held responsible for accidents and for violating the provisions of the Act. The Director General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management of the mines from time to time for improving safety measures.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Mine	Owner	1986-87		1987-88	
			No. of accident	No. of accident	No. of accident	No. of accident
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Adjoy II	E.C.D.	—	—	1	1
2.	Bahula	„	—	—	2	4
3.	Belbaid	„	1	1	—	—
4.	Benalee	„	1	1	—	—
5.	Bhanora	„	1	1	—	—
6.	Chinakuri No. 2	„	1	2	—	—
7.	Chinakuri No. 3	„	1	2	—	—
8.	C.L. Jambad	„	—	—	1	1
9.	Chalkballavpur	„	—	—	1	1
10.	Dabor	„	1	1	2	2
11.	Dalmia	„	1	1	—	—
12.	Dhemo Main	„	—	—	1	1
13.	Gourangdih	„	—	—	2	2
14.	Ghanshyam	„	—	—	1	3
15.	Jambad	„	1	1	—	—
16.	Jamehari (R)	„	—	—	1	1
17.	Kottadih	„	2	2	—	—
18.	Kumardih 'B'	„	1	1	—	—
19.	Khas Kajora	„	1	1	1	1
20.	Kendra	„	—	—	1	1
21.	Lachipur	„	1	1	1	1
22.	Madusudanpur	„	1	1	—	—
23.	Mandarboni	„	1	1	—	—
24.	Madhiapur	„	1	2	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Methani	E.C.D.	1	1	—	—
26.	Madhujore	„	—	—	1	1
27.	Moira	„	—	—	1	1
28.	Nimcha	„	—	—	1	1
29.	Pure Searsole	E.C.L.	1	1	—	—
30.	Parascole	„	1	1	—	—
31.	Patmohona	„	1	1	—	—
32.	Pandaveswar	„	—	—	1	1
33.	Poidih	„	—	—	1	1
34.	Ranipur	„	1	1	1	1
35.	Qatibati No. 3, 4, 7, Pits	„	1	1	—	—
36.	Shyamsudarpur	„	1	1	—	—
37.	Samla (R)	„	1	1	—	—
38.	Sodepur	„	1	1	—	—
39.	Sankarpur	„	1	1	—	—
40.	Sripur	„	—	—	1	1
41.	Seetalpur	„	—	—	1	1
42.	Toposi	„	1	1	—	—
43.	Tilaboni	„	1	1	—	—
Total			28	31	23	27

**Profitable Utilization of
Cashew Apple**

8269. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of units in each State/Union territory which are involved in profitable utilization of cashew apple;

(b) whether any proposal has been received for setting up a unit named The Regional Agro-Industrial Development Co-operative Limited, Cannanore, in Cannanore, Kerala for industrial processing of cashew; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government on this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) In most of the States/Union Territories cashew apple is not utilised fully. However, in Goa, some units are producing fenni out of cashew apple.

(b) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has not received any specific proposal for setting up of a unit for industrial processing of cashew under the name The Regional Agro-Industrial Development Co-operative Limited, Cannanore, in Cannanore, Kerala.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of large fertiliser units

8270. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any objections have been received to the setting up of large fertilizer units in the Northern States as recommended by the Vardarajan Committee;
- (b) the reaction of Government to these objection;
- (c) the reasons put forth for the objections raised; and
- (d) how many fertilizer units are now existing which are sponsored by the Union Government and how many are proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) and (c). Some objections to the effect that large size plants are highly capital intensive, attract fewer investors have a longer gestation period and cause a higher foreign exchange out go compared to small sized plants have been received.

(b) Govt. has not taken any view on these objections.

(d) There are, at present, 26 fertilizer units in the country in the public sector. Besides, there are four units in the co-operative sector in which the Central Govt. has substantial interest.

There is no proposal, at present, to set up a new unit by Government.

Issue of Identity Card to Indians Going Abroad

8271. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have decided to issue identity cards to Indians going abroad for employment; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Identity Cards, containing details of Passport, Visa and Employment Contract abroad are being given to emigrant workers cleared under the Emigration Act, 1983. This will safeguard such workers against malpractices.

Amount Released for Tourism Schemes in Orissa

8272. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme sanctioned for development of tourism in Orissa and the amount released in each case during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent so far, year-wise; and

(c) the amount proposed to be released during the year 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). The details of the projects sanctioned by the Central Ministry of Tourism for development of tourism in Orissa and the amount released in each case during the last three years are as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
1985-86			
1.	Purchase of Motor Yacht for Chilka Lake	3.54	3.54
2.	Purchase of Mini buses and elephants for Similipal	4.04	3.64
3.	Boats for Nandan Kanan Zoological Park	1.50	1.35

1	2	3	4
4.	Yatri Niwas at Satpada	25.50	10.00
5.	Toilet and drinking water facilities at Bhubaneswar and Konark	3.00	2.00
1986-87			
1.	Yatri Niwas at Konark	29.50	8.00
2.	Open Air Theatre at Konark	7.10	5.00
3.	Wayside facilities at Sunabeda	6.98	5.00
4.	Wayside facilities at Taptapani	6.98	5.00
5.	Wayside facilities at Angul	6.98	5.00
6.	Wayside facilities at Rameswar	7.27	4.00
7.	Boats for Bhitarkanika Wild Life Sanctuary	4.30	2.50
1987-88			
1.	Water Sports at Chilka Lake	21.96	20.00

These projects are in different stages of execution and the amounts released for them have not been fully spent.

(c) The Ministry does not allocate funds Statewise but schemewise. The Ministry has received proposals from the Government of Orissa for financial assistance during 1988-89. These would be taken up for financial assistance by the Ministry subject to merits of the proposals, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

[Translation]

Area Under Oilseeds Production

8273. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : SHRI RAM DHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more area of land has been brought under cultivation of the oilseeds during 1987-88 as compared to the previous years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the future plan of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Firm estimates of area, Statewise, are not yet due from the States for the crop year 1987-88. However, as per current assessments, the area under rabi oilseed crops during the year is likely to show an increase as compared to past few years.

(c) In order to bring more areas under oilseeds, emphasis is being given on the diversification of rapeseed-mustard crop to areas under rainfed/low irrigated wheat, popularisation of rabi/summer groundnut cultivation in non-traditional areas, popularisation of sunflower cultivation during Zaid season in potential areas and diversion of area under rainfed minor millets to soyabean.

[English]

Exploitation of Bidi Workers

8274. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether bidi workers in Madhya Pradesh continue to be exploited by commission agents and factory owners;

(b) whether Union Government have asked for a report from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) As and when reports/complaints regarding exploitation of beedi workers come to notice the same are forwarded to appropriate authorities for taking suitable action.

(b) and (c). Recently some articles appeared in newspapers regarding conditions of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh. The complaints mainly related to the payment of Minimum Wages and the enforcement of the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. The State Government has been requested to take suitable action and send a report.

Advisory Bodies in Ministry of Labour

8275. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various Advisory Committees/Bodies functioning under the Ministry of Labour, having non-official representation;

(b) the present tenure of such bodies; and

(c) the details of Committees/Bodies which are under process of re-constitution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

J.Es for Design Work in CPWD

8276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Junior Engineers, Civil and Electrical, required for design work in CPWD, separately; and

(b) the present strength of Graduate Junior Engineers in the Central Public Works Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The number of Junior Engineers required for design work depends upon relevant work-load which varies from time to time.

(b) The information is being collected and will laid on the Table of the House.

Internal Audit Unit at ITDC

8277. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) since when the internal audit unit at India Tourism Development Corporation's head office is in existence;

(b) its functions and achievements during the last one year; and

(c) the total annual expenditure on this unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The Internal Audit Department in ITDC has been in existence since 1967.

(b) The functions include internal audit of all accounting centres spread all over the country and the various departments/divisions at headmasters. It covers verification of financial & accounting records; ensuring adequacy of controls and compliance of procedures & rules; proper accounting of assets, income and expenditure, prevention & detection of frauds and to carry out other investigations and assignments as entrusted. During the year 1987-88, the Internal Audit Department conducted 110 audits in respect of the various units/divisions of ITDC. Besides, it conducted/reported special audits in respect of the Ashok Travels & Tours (Transport) units at Agra and Delhi; rendered assistance in finalising fresh supply contracts for Delhi-based hotels; undertook review of purchase of fresh supplies in respect of Hotel Ashok Aurangabad; etc.

(c) The estimated annual expenditure on the Internal Audit Department of ITDC during the year 1987-88 was of the order of Rs. 13.63 lakhs.

[Translation]**Inclusion of Almora and Pithoragarh Under Operation Flood-III**

8278. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to include Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh under Operation Flood-III programme, if so, by what time; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation of Uttar Pradesh has proposed the districts to be covered under Operation Flood-III and these are selected on the basis of milk potential/marketing.

[English]**Aid to Assam for Agricultural Development**

8279. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government had given any aid to Assam Government for agricultural development schemes in 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). Financial aid to the States for the State Plan Schemes including agricultural development schemes is extended under the modified Gadgil Formula in the form of block loans and grants but is not allocated sector-wise. The major heads for the total financial aid from the Centre are normal Central assistance, assistance for externally-aided projects, advance plan assistance for natural calamities, special central assistance for hill areas and special central assistance for Tribal Sub-Plans. These together with the resources mobilised by the State are intended to finance State Plan Schemes. The revised outlays as approved by Planning Commission for the development of Agriculture in Assam during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are indicated below. The break-up for the major Heads of Development are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1986-87	1987-88
1. Crop Husbandry	2440	3090
2. Soil & Water Conservation	354	360
3. Animal Husbandry	790	890
4. Dairy Development	270	310
5. Fisheries	296	410
6. Food, Storage and Warehousing	35	35
7. Agricultural Research & Education	840	1000
8. Investment in Agricultural Financial Institutions	25	30
9. Marketing and Quality Control	101	110
10. Cooperation	805	805
Total :	5956	7040

Compilation of Consumer Price Indices

8280. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines about the procedure to be followed for compilation of the consumer price indices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI IAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). The compilation of consumer price index is carried out on a scientific basis and the methodological aspects are finalised by the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living, constituted by the Government of India, under the Chairmanship of Director General, Central Statistical Organisation. The Committee examines procedural/technical aspects of index compilation and renders technical advice and guidance in compilation of consumer price index numbers. These remain operative till a new series is introduced.

Unaccounted Steel Seized from Traders

8281. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some items of iron and steel, supplied by the producers to actual users only, find their way into open market;

(b) whether any unaccounted steel of various types was seized from the traders in different parts of the country during the last one year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Buddhist Circuit Tourist Schemes

8282. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :
SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have drawn up a Buddhist Tourist Circuit Plan for encouraging tourism;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether the Action Plan visualises a time bound programme for its implementation and for effecting the proposed changes; and

(d) if so, the progress achieved so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Ministry of Tourism had constituted a Task Force to identify places connected with the life of the Buddha in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Task Force made specific recommendations in respect of provision of accommodation, development of roads, improvement in telecommunication facilities, training of man-power, introduction of new air, rail and road services, etc.

(c) and (d). The Action Plan visualises implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force in a phased manner and all possible efforts are being made by the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Surface Transport and the respective State Governments to ensure implementation according to the time-schedule envisaged in the Action Plan.

Increase in Tourist Arrivals

8283. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :
SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage increase in tourist traffic to India over the past three years;

(b) whether there has been any significant shift in the preferred Indian destinations by the incoming traffic and the pattern of originating traffic; and

(c) if so, the manner in which our infrastructure is proposed to be restructured to keep pace with these changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The percentage increase in tourist traffic to India excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh during the last 3 years is as given below :

Year	Percentage change over the previous year
1985	0.2
1986	29.1
1987	7.8

(b) No significant shift in the preferred Indian destinations by the incoming traffic and the pattern of originating traffic has been noted.

(c) Does not arise.

Welfare Scheme for Agricultural Workers in West Bengal

8284. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new welfare schemes were undertaken during 1986-87 and 1987-88 by Union Government for the welfare of agricultural labour, especially in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Apart from the various existing labour laws applicable to agricultural labour and the package of anti-poverty programmes aimed at the poorest section of the community of which agricultural labourers form the bulk, a Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers has been launched by the Ministry of Finance w.e.f. 15th August, 1987. The Scheme will be operated by the Life Insurance Corporation

of India in conjunction with the State/ U.T. Governments and the entire premium cost will be borne by the Government of India during the initial period of three years. In the event of death of the landless agricultural labourer, his/her nominee will be eligible for the assumed sum of Rs. 1,000 which will be paid by LIC. These laws, programmes, schemes, etc., are not confined to West Bengal only.

Central Guidelines for Austerity Measures due to Drought

8285. SHRI BIMALKANTI GHOSH : DR. V. VENKATESH :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been given to the States and Undertakings to observe austerity measures due to drought conditions in the country;

(b) if so, whether Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking has followed those guidelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Production of Fertilizers

8286. SHRI BIMALKANTI GHOSH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of fertilizers during 1987-88;

(b) the capacity utilization of the various units;

(c) the expected total output for 1988-89 and how much more fertilizers will be required to be imported to meet the country's demand; and

(d) the salient features of the arrangements made for imports and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) to (d). The total production of fertilizers and capacity utilisation of the various units during 1987-88 and production targets during 1988-89 are given in the statement below. The import of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers is arranged to bridge the gap between assessed

demand and estimated availability. As there are no known sources of Potash in the country, the entire requirement of potassic fertilizers is met by imports. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the quantities of fertilizers proposed to be imported during 1988-89 and their estimated cost.

Statement

Total Production of Fertilizers Percentage Capacity Utilisation During 1987-88 and Production Target for 1988-89

(000 MT)

Name of the plant	Production during 1987-88	% Capacity utilisation during 1987-88	Production targets during 1988-89		
			1	2	3
<i>Nitrogen :</i>					
NFL : Nangal-I	62.3	77.9	58		
: Nangal-II	140.2	92.2	131		
: Bhatinda	202.4	86.1	195		
: Panipat	205.4	87.4	202		
: Vijaipur	41.6	—	194		
	—	—	—		
Total :	651.9	86.9	780		
	—	—	—		
FACT : Udyogamandal	53.7	68.8	42		
: Cochin-I	88.9	58.3	95		
: Cochin-II	84.1	103.8	85		
	—	—	—		
Total :	226.7	72.9	222		
	—	—	—		
RCF : Trombay	96.4	107.1	88		
: Trombay-IV	59.7	79.6	60		
: Trombay-V	120.9	79.5	131		
: Thal	610.2	89.3	615		
	—	—	—		
Total :	887.2	88.7	894		
	—	—	—		

	1	2	3	4
MFL	: Madras	45.1	25.6	145
SAIL	: Rourkela	43.0	35.6	55
NLC	: Neyveli	58.0	82.9	58
PPL	: Paradeep	76.2	58.6	114
By Product		14.1	47.0	14
	Total (Public) (Non-sick)	2002.2	77.2	2282
<i>Sick Units :</i>				
FCI	: Sindri Modn.	141.9	64.8	132
	: Gorakhpur	77.3	59.0	83
	: Ramagundam	53.9	23.6	80
	: Talcher	85.3	37.4	69
	Total :	358.4	44.5	364
HFC	: Namrup-I	4.6	23.0	—
	: Namrup-II	87.1	57.3	97
	: Namrup-III	63.2	53.7	91
	: Durgapur	58.0	38.2	97
	: Barauni	76.3	50.2	106
Total	: HFC	289.2	48.5	391
Total	: (Sick Units)	647.6	46.1	755
Total	: (Public)	2649.8	66.1	3037
<i>Cooperative Sector</i>				
IFFCO	: Kalol/Kandla	290.3	96.1	290
	: Phulpur	183.5	80.5	207
	: Aonla	—	—	195
Total	: (IFFCO)	473.8	89.4	692
KRIBHCO	: Hazira	727.0	108.8	635
Total	: (Coop.)	1200.8	100.2	1327
<i>Private Sector</i>				
GSFC	: Baroda	248.4	105.3	261
CFL	: Vizag	73.5	87.5	67

	1	2	3	4
SFC	: Kota	114.1	75.1	145
IEL	: Kanpur	232.9	75.1	292
ZAC	: Goa	201.5	101.8	215
SPIC	: Tuticorin	277.2	88.8	318
MCF	: Mangalore	90.2	49.8	164
EID Parry	: Ennore	10.6	132.5	13
Hari Fert.	: Varanasi	4.1	41.0	5
GNFC	: Bharuch	302.5	110.8	282
TAC	: Tuticorin Alk.	9.9	61.9	15
UNF	: Mangal	6.4	40.0	10
HLL	: Haldia	21.1	72.8	31
By Product		4.7	39.2	5
Indo Gulf	: Jagdishpur	—	—	123
GSFC	: Sikka	18.3	—	49
GFC	: Kakinada	—	—	41
Total	: (Private)	1615.4	86.9	2036
Total	: (Pub. + Coop. + Private)	5466.0	77.6	6400

*Phosphate**Public*

FACT	: Udyogamandal	28.1	75.9	22
	: Cochin-II	95.4	85.2	100
Total	: (FACT)	123.5	82.9	122
RCF	: Trombay	50.1	111.3	45
	: Trombay-IV	59.7	79.6	60
Total	: (RCF)	109.8	91.5	105
MFL	: Madras	57.2	51.1	95
PPL	: Paradeep	194.5	58.8	292
HCL	: Khetri	9.0	30.0	15
SSP Units		16.0	45.7	17
Total	: (Public)	510.0	65.6	646

1	2	3	4
<i>Co-operative Sector :</i>			
IFFCO : Kandla	289.2	93.6	325
Total : (Pub. + Coop.)	799.2	73.6	971
<i>Private Sector :</i>			
GSFC : Baroda	78.5	157.0	75
CFL : Vizag	75.1	72.2	71
ZAC : Goa	97.4	87.7	114
SPIC : Tuticorin	97.4	51.0	199
MCF : Mangalore	32.2	51.1	63
EID : Parry Ennore	13.2	132.0	16
HLL : Haldia	53.8	73.7	78
GSFC : Sikka	47.0	—	127
GFC : Kakinada	—	—	106
SSP Units	371.2	64.6	380
Total : (Private)	865.8	69.6	1229
Grand Total :	1665.3	71.5	2200

Setting up of Joint Fertilizers Plants

8287. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
DR. V. VENKATESH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is negotiating with some countries for setting up of joint fertiliser plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) and (b). Discussions of an exploratory nature have been held by FEDO, a consultancy organisation of Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited with their counterparts in Algeria and Abu Dhabi for possible joint ventures for the manufacture of fertilizers.

Sponge Iron Plant at Bandra

8288. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
DR. V. VENKATESH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Limited is setting up an integrated steel plant near Bandra, Bombay;

(b) whether Germans have offered technology for this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the project is likely to start production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir. However, M/s. Sunflag Iron

and Steel Company Limited have been licensed to set up a composite electric arc furnace based mini steel plant at Bhandara in Maharashtra to manufacture 1,50,000 tonnes per annum of sponge iron for captive use and 1,60,000 tonnes per annum of re-rolled bars and sections.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Government have approved foreign collaboration proposals of the Indian Company with M/s. Krupp Industrietechnik GmbH, West Germany for the production of Direct Reduced Iron and with M/s. Mannesmann Demag & M/s. Neu Hamburger Stahl Werke GmbH, West Germany for the manufacture of mild and alloy steel rolled products. The plant is likely to start production in May, 1988.

Changes in Modernisation Programme of Durgapur Steel Plant

8289. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fundamental changes have been made in the modernisation programme for the Durgapur Steel Plant in the light of the earlier modernisation programmes of other steel plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). With a view to avoid heavy cost and time overruns in implementation of the project, a new strategy has been planned for the Durgapur Steel Plant modernisation which envisages placing orders on the basis of division of work into compact packages which would be implemented on turn key basis within specified time and cost. Besides, quicker Governmental clearances have been envisaged through an Empowered Committee of Secretaries and an integrated project team with adequate financial and administrative powers at Durgapur has already been set up.

Campaign to Attract Tourists from Gulf Countries

8290. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are making any efforts to attract tourists from the Gulf States;

(b) whether any campaign has been launched through Gulf media to promote India as a major centre of diverse tourists' attractions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism have launched print and electronic media advertising campaigns through Gulf media for promoting its diverse attractions. Under the publicity campaign tourism commercials are telecast in the tourist generating markets of U.A.E., Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. Advertisements are also placed in important Pan Arab Magazines in Arabic such as Usrati, Al Nahda, Al Vaqza, Al Majalla and Al Sayiditi. Advertisements are also placed in leading English dailies and magazines in the important markets of West Asia including Egypt. Journalists, photographers and T.V. Teams are invited to visit India under the Department's Hospitality Scheme to enable them to project India's multiple attractions in the Gulf States.

[Translation]

Provision of FCI Godown in East Delhi

8291. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ration is not being supplied in time to the fair price shops in east Delhi as there is no godown of the Food Corporation of India there;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a godown in order to remove the difficulties being faced by the residents of that area; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) to (c).

Supply of foodgrains and sugar to fair price shops in East Delhi is made by the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation from Food Corporation of India's (FCI) storage depots at Sahibabad, Rana Pratap Bagh and Shakti Nagar. The Delhi Administration has reported that there has been some delay in maintaining regular supply of these commodities to some fair price shops in East Delhi due to some problem in replenishment of stocks at Sahibabad depot recently. The FCI has recently hired a storage capacity of 25,900 tonnes from the Central Warehousing Corporation at Neoli on Delhi-U.P. border primarily to meet the public distribution requirement of East Delhi. An additional capacity of 40,100 tonnes at Neoli is also likely to be commissioned shortly, which would further ease the situation. The FCI is also making efforts to build up adequate stocks of foodgrains at its Sahibabad depot.

[English]

Cut in Quota of Rice and Edible Oil to Kerala

8292. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have cut down the quota of rice and edible oil to Kerala since March, 1988;

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government will consider restoring the quota of rice and edible oil to that State ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) to (c). *Rice*. The allocation of rice to Kerala for Public Distribution System was brought to the level of 1.25 lakh tonnes a month with effect from March, 1988 by withdrawing the extra allocations allowed for the lean season.

The allocations of rice to the various States/Union Territories including Kerala are made on a month to month basis, keeping in view the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, availability in the open market, trends in offtake etc.

Patmolein : The allocation of Patmolein (including the Small Pack Scheme) was 4,250 tonnes in March, 1988 and 4,000 tonnes in April, 1988 against 5700 tonnes in February, 1988.

The allocation of imported edible oils to State Governments/UTs. under Public Distribution System is adjusted according to availability and prices of edible oils in the open market and pace of lifting by States/Union Territories.

'Land Bank for the Shelterless Scheme of HUDCO

8293. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) how many hectares of land have been secured by HUDGO so far under the scheme 'Land Bank for the Shelterless' ;

(b) whether reservations have been expressed by some States about this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) As on 31.3.88 about 54 hectares of land in 112 schemes sanctioned by the HUDCO have been reserved by the Housing agencies Under the "Land Bank for the Shelterless."

(b) and (c). Since developed site is not generally affordable by the shelterless category, HUDCO has launched a scheme for creating a Land Bank for them. Under this scheme, the implementing agencies, while planning the layout, will set aside 5% of the area for this shelterless category.

The Government of U.P. have expressed certain reservations on the ground that it not only increases the cost of development of land for all units but it is likely to come under encroachment.

Since the Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing a parallel State scheme, making available land to the landless in urban areas, then do not feel the need of further reservation. HUDCO has

accepted the suggestions of Government of Andhra Pradesh. In Himachal Pradesh as reported by the agencies, there are no shelterless families in the State and as such the HUDCO is not insisting on such land reservation.

(d) No, Sir.

Allocation of Imported Edible Oil to Kerala

8294. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of imported edible oil supplied to Kerala during the last six months for Public Distribution System;

(b) the quantity of edible oil supplied to that State during the corresponding months in the previous year; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the imported edible oil actually reached the customers and is not leaked out into the black market ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). The allocation of imported edible oil to Kerala under Public Distribution System including small packs from November, 1987 to April, 1988 and the corresponding period in the last year was 44450 MTs and 11500 MTs respectively.

(c) Central Government issues instructions from time to time to all States/UTs to take stringent action against anti-social elements and preventive and punitive measures to be taken against illegal diversion of imported edible oils into unauthorised channels.

EEC Countries Offer of Edible Oil

8295. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the countries in the European Economic Community (EEC) have offered to supply edible oil at competitive price; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). Various countries in the European Economic Community (EEC) have offered to supply edible oils as per agreements signed between Government of India and the Governments of the donor countries. This is in addition to commercial purchases by the canalising agency, the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC), who also procures oils from countries in the EEC against contracts finalised on the basis of tenders.

Dryland Farming

8296. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI SRI HARI RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steps taken by Union Government for development of dryland farming, State-wise; and

(b) the details of funds allocated, State-wise by Union Government for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). A number of programmes have been taken up in various States under Central sector for development of Dryland Farming. This includes the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture which was launched in 1986-87 exclusively for dryland development on watershed basis in 16 States. The total 7th Plan outlay for this scheme is Rs. 239 crores out of which Rs. 120 crores is the share of Government of India and Rs. 119 crore is the share of the States. The funds allocated to these States for Works Programme during 7th Plan is given below :

S. No.	State	(Rs. in crore) 7th Plan total allocation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.00
2.	Assam	0.80
3.	Bihar	4.00
4.	Gujarat	32.00
5.	Haryana	2.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.00
7.	Karnataka	36.00
8.	Kerala	0.80
9.	Madhya Pradesh	28.00
10.	Maharashtra	40.00
11.	Orissa	4.00
12.	Punjab	0.80
13.	Rajasthan	24.00
14.	Tamil Nadu	8.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	16.00
16.	West Bengal	1.60
Total		232.00
		+7.00
for other components.		

*Works Programme included under the scheme are—

Land and Moisture management for cropping systems introduction, dryland horticulture, fodder production and farm forestry.

EPF Outstanding Against Industries in Andhra Pradesh

8297. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of industries in Andhra Pradesh which have not deposited the amount of Employees Provident Fund;

(b) the reasons for not depositing the amount by these industries;

(c) the steps being taken to recover the amount of the provident fund of the employees from the industries together with interest thereon; and

(d) the expected number of workers in the State to be benefited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) According to available information 845 unexempted establishments were in default of a sum of Rs. 208.30 Lakhs as on 30.9.1987. The Industry-wise break up of the arrear is as given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)
(i) Textile 134.80
(ii) Electrical, Mechanical and General Engineering Products 13.62
(iii) Sugar 0.18
(iv) Trading and Commercial establishments 5.18
(v) Iron and Steel 1.90
(vi) Heavy and Fine Chemicals 2.08
(vii) Road Motor Transport 11.71
(viii) Bidi 0.03
(ix) Other industries 38.71
208.30

(b) The defaulting establishments generally plead industrial sickness or financial difficulties as the main reasons for non-payment of provident fund dues.

(c) The E.P.F. authorities are taking the following steps for realisation of the outstanding dues—

(i) Issuing of Recovery Certificates under Section 8 of the E.P.F. Act.

(ii) Filing of prosecution cases under Section 14 of the E.P.F. Act.

(iii) Filing of complaints under Section 406/409 IPC in cases of non-payment of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees,

(iv) Levying of damages under section 14B of the E.P.F. Act.

(d) The total number of E.P.F. subscribers as on 30.9.1987 was 9,95,749.

Implementation of Rural Development Programmes in Andhra Pradesh

8298. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a scheme for consideration of Government to provide necessary financial assistance for implementation of the rural development programmes in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes and the financial assistance requested by the State and granted by the Union Government; and

(c) the extent to which the rural development programmes are likely to be improved in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) Allocation of funds to States for implementation of the various rural development programmes of this Department, is made on the basis of fixed criteria prescribed for each Programme and no specific request is required to be made by the States for the purpose. In any case, no such scheme as referred to in the Question

has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Tourism Scheme Forwarded by Andhra Pradesh

8299. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourism developmental schemes submitted by State Government of Andhra Pradesh pending for approval;

(b) the time by which the decision in this respect is expected to be taken; and

(c) the steps being taken for expeditious clearance of the projects by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The details of the tourism development schemes submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh are given below in the statement.

(b) and (c). Sanctioning of financial assistance for tourism projects involves formulation of projects by the State Governments, processing of the same by the Ministry of Tourism and sanctioning of the required funds by the Integrated Finance of the Ministry of Tourism. In view of this, no time limit can be laid down for sanctioning of projects. However, if the project is complete in all respects, and the assistance sought does not exceed Rs. 50.00 lakhs its normally takes three to four months to sanction a project subject to merits of the proposals, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Estimated cost
1	2	3
1.	Cottage Complex at Pulicat Lake	20.32
2.	Watersports equipment at Nagarjunasagar	14.00
3.	Watersports equipment at Bhawanipuram Island	20.00
4.	Watersports facilities at Rishikonda	24.14
5.	Watersports facilities at Hussainsagar	21.00

1	2	3
6.	Development of Camping Grounds at 10 places in A.P.	20.00
7.	Provision of 10 Safari Vehicles for sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh	30.00
8.	Kuchipudi Dance Festival	5.00
9.	Floodlighting of Lepakshi Temple, Hyderabad	4.00
10.	Ropeway at Tirupati-Tirumala	200.00
11.	Cafeteria at Qutub Shahi Tomb and Hussainsagar Lake	29.05
12.	Wayside amenities at Srikakulam	53.05
13.	Wayside amenities at Kavali	53.05
14.	Purchase of Launches at Nagarjunasagar	50.00
15.	Wayside amenities at Palamaner	35.00
16.	Cafeteria, Drinking water at Kandapatti Fort	32.38
17.	Wayside facilities at Dichpally	35.00
18.	National Heritage Project for Nagarjunasagar :	
	(i) Development of Nagarjunakonda, landscaping, restoration of sites, tourist amenities etc.	160.00
	(ii) Development of water sports in the Lake	60.00
19.	National Heritage Project for Golkonda, Hyderabad-Phase-I	557.00
20.	Theme Museum at Visakhapatnam	50.00
21.	Cafeteria at Kondapally Fort	32.38
22.	Development of Beach Resort at Rishikonda, Visakhapatnam	120.28
23.	Beach Resort and Water Sports at Hope Island at akinada	286.90
24.	Beach Resort at Vodarevu	56.21
25.	Ropeway at Nagarjunasagar	200.00

Factories Inspectorate in Andhra Pradesh

8300. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached Union Government to provide assistance for strengthening of Factories Inspectorate in the State to enable them to handle the hazards in chemical and other such hazardous industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance requested by the State Government and the amount sanctioned; and

(c) the extent to which it will help the smooth functioning of the Factories Inspectorate in avoiding industrial accidents in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). The Factories Act, 1948 is enforced by the State Governments and the Union Territories Administrations through their Inspectorates. The Act empowers them to levy fees for registration and licensing of factories for the purpose. In addition, the Government of India have been extending assistance to various State Governments and Union Territories including Andhra Pradesh for

training of Inspectors and upgrading their industrial hygiene laboratories. No specific request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for provision of financial assistance for strengthening the set up of their factories inspectorate has been received. Certain other State Governments had asked for assistance for strengthening their factories inspectorettes, but it was not found feasible to assist them in this regard.

Visit of Tourists to Rajasthan and Foreign Exchange Earnings

8301. SHRI VIRDAI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) the foreign exchange earnings from tourists in Rajasthan during the last three years;
- (b) the names of the five countries on the top from the point of view of tourist arrivals in Rajasthan; and
- (c) the special measures being taken by the Government to attract the tourists this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). The foreign exchange earnings from tourism are estimated on all-India basis and not state-wise.

(c) Special measures being taken by the Government to attract the foreign tourists traffic to the country during the year include strengthening of overseas publicity, promotion of special interest tourism and strengthening of infrastructural facilities.

West German Assistance for Modernisation

8302. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJE-SWARI :

SHRI H.A. DORA :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI ;

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level Indo-German working group is proposed to be set up to work out the modalities of the financial assistance for modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the time by which the final agreement is likely to be reached; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). During the Indo-German Joint Commission meeting held on 15th March, 1988 in New Delhi, it was agreed that the establishment of a Working Group could be examined to work out the modalities and quantum of German participation for modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant. A final decision on this suggestion will be taken after further discussions between the two sides. It is not possible to indicate the time by which a final decision will be taken in the matter.

Sugar Production

8303. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJE-SWARI :
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the sugar production has picked up in the fourth month of the current season;
- (b) if so, the total sugar production so far against the target; and
- (c) the production sugar in January 1988 as compared to the last year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to wide variations in sugar cane production owing to weather conditions such as drought, floods and other natural factors, no sugar production targets are fixed. The production of sugar during 1987-88 season upto 31st March, 1988 was 69.84 lakh tonnes as against 67.10 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year.

(c) The production of sugar during the month of January, 1988 was 16.52 lakh tonnes as against 16.32 lakh tonnes in the corresponding month last year.

Indo-Malaysian Expertise in Agriculture

8304. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJE-SWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Malaysia have agreed to share their expertise in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether the two countries have also discussed the possibilities of co-operation in agricultural research and bilateral trade in agriculture field;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(d) if so, the extent to which agricultural expertise is proposed to be shared with Malaysia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (d). A Malaysian delegation led by Hon'ble Dato Dr. Lin Keng Yaik, Malaysian Minister of Primary Industries called on the Agriculture Minister on 2nd December, 1987 and *inter-alia* discussed the possibilities of cooperation of the agricultural sector between the two countries. During discussions it was agreed that an Indian team may visit Malaysia to study all aspects of oil palm plantation and industry as well as to explore the

broader aspects of cooperation in this sector.

Encouragement to Downstream Aluminium Based Industries

8305. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to encourage downstream Aluminium based industries;

(b) the steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) whether eastern India will be encouraged to develop Aluminium Extrusion Foil Processing Units, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b). Besides providing fiscal reliefs to aluminium foils, corrugated sheets, aluminium doors, and windows etc., Government have taken several other steps such as liberalisation of licencing policy for development of aluminium down stream industry in the secondary sector. Various Conferences and Seminars were organised for promotion of aluminium products and identification of technological gaps.

(c) The Units in production and Letters of Intent issued for manufacturing aluminium Extrusions and foils in Eastern India are as under :

Unit	Item of manufacture	Annual licenced capacity (In tonnes)	location
1	2	3	4

In Production

(i) M/s. Bihar Extrusions Company (P) Ltd.	Aluminium Extrusions	2,100	Tehsil Gamharia, District Singhbhum, Bihar.
(ii) M/s. Electrical Manufacturing Company Ltd., Calcutta	Aluminium Extrusions	5,000	District Calcutta, West Bengal.

1	2	3	4
(iii) M/s. Bharat Aluminium Company (Bidhanbagh) Unit.	Aluminium Extrusion	1,000	Bidhan Bagh, Asansol District, West Bengal.
	Aluminium foils	500	
(iv) M/s. India Foils Ltd.	Aluminium foils	5,000	Kamarhati, District 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

Letters of Intent

(i) M/s. Orissa Extrusions Ltd.	Aluminium Extrusions	5,500	Balasore, Orissa
(ii) M/s. Century Extrusions Ltd.	Aluminium Extrusions	7,000	Bankura, West Bengal (The Company has requested for change of location from Bankura district to Uluberia in District Howrah of West Bengal).

Building of Cold Storage by French Firm

8307. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the country's biggest cold storage has already been built in six months time by a French firm for sale of fruits and vegetables project in Delhi;

(b) whether Mother Dairy, Delhi is selling fruits and vegetables at half the Super Bazar prices and have made profits of about Rs. 30 crores which have been now invested in the French Cold Storage; and

(c) whether the French firm will be asked to cover all the States in the country within one year to meet the drought conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The fruit and vegetables cold store complex at Mangolpuri, Delhi

has been built by a French firm assisted by Indian firms in about 15 months' time from the date of award of the contract to the French firm.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Herbal Gardens

8308. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to establish any new herbal gardens in the country;

(b) whether Government also propose to establish such gardens in all Governments owned nurseries; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether seeds/saplings for the purpose are made available at subsidised rates to actual users and institutions; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND

COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has no proposal to establish herbal gardens in the country.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Crop Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra

8309. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the operation of the Crop Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra has made distinct impact in protecting the interest of the farmers;

(b) how much of additional area could be covered by the Scheme during the last four years;

(c) whether 80 per cent loss of crop entitles one for the benefit and it is calculated on an average of the yield in a district and this always proves to be disadvantageous to the farmers; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated to see that the inhibiting factors are removed and the scheme is given a wider coverage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra has protected the interests of the loanee farmers.

(b) Areas covered under the Scheme since its implementation from Kharif 1985 are given as under :

Kharif 1985 — 8.94 lakh hectare

Rabi 1985-86 — 0.45 „ „

Kharif 1986 — 15.76 „ „

Rabi 1986-87 — 2.88 „ „

Kharif 1987 — 16.78 „ „

(c) The threshold yield/guaranteed yield is 80 per cent of the actual average yield for last 5 years for crops covered under the Scheme for each defined area which may be a district, tehsil, taluka, block, mandal or police station. Threshold yield is not based on average for the district alone.

(d) Does not arise.

Crop Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra

8310. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of Crop Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra;

(b) whether during the last three years more areas could be brought under the scheme;

(c) how many farmers could be given benefit under this Scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether any indepth Central enquiry has been made to find out the cases which are impending the growth of the scheme in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details of the findings and the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). The requisite information, year-wise, during the last 3 years, is given in the following table :

Year	No. of farmers covered (in lakhs)	Area covered (in lakh hect.)	Sum Insured (Rs. in crores)
1985-86	5.44	9.33	81.14
1986-87	10.68	18.64	172.35
1987-88	11.93	16.99	201.89

(d) No such general enquiry is considered necessary as there has been steady growth in the implementation of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme in the State.

(e) Does not arise.

AID to Inland Fisheries for Maharashtra

8311. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Centrally sponsored scheme for production of inland fisheries Central aid is given to the State and if so, the formula evolved in this regard;

(b) whether the quantum of Central aid to Maharashtra since 1984-85 has gone on diminishing year after year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether target for a Plan period is fixed and if so, the target for inland fisheries fixed for the Seventh Five Year Plan for Maharashtra and the quantum of Central aid proposed and the rate of utilisation by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government shares the expenditure with the State Governments on 50:50 basis of development of aquaculture under Fish Farmers' Development Agency (FFDA) programme and on 70:30 basis for construction of fish seed hatcheries under the scheme "Infrastructure development for fish seed production".

(b) and (c). There was decrease in the Central aid given to Government of Maharashtra during 1986-87 and 1987-88. The reason for this is that major portion of the Central aid for construction of fish seed hatcheries was released during 1984-85 and 1985-86, requiring no substantial central aid to be released in 1986-87 and 1987-88.

(d) Yes, Sir. The target prescribed for inland fisheries in Maharashtra during the VII plan is as follows :

Fish production : 50,000 tonnes

Fish seed production : 100 million seed

The quantum of central aid proposed for the remaining 2 years of VII Five Year Plan for inland fisheries development in Maharashtra is about Rs. 16 lakh. However, the exact quantum of central assistance to be released will be on the basis of requirement of funds to be projected by the State Government.

The Government of Maharashtra have utilised a sum of Rs. 55.14 lakh released as central aid from 1984-85 to 1987-88, for inland fisheries development.

Destruction of Crops due to Farm Pests

8312. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the extent of destruction of crops due to farm pests; and

(b) if so, the details of studies made and findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimation of crop loss is an integral part of research activities in all the crop based Institutes, National Research Projects, State Agricultural Universities, etc.

The extent and severity of damage varies from year to year and location to location. The overall estimates indicate that crop losses at National level occurs to the extent of 10% of the total production.

Much of the crop loss could be avoided by using suitable varieties, adoption of proper plant protection measures and following the recommended cropping sequences.

Fishing Harbours in Kerala

8313. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of fishing harbours in Kerala that have been granted Central allocation during 1987-88 and 1988-89, respectively;

(b) the details of allocation made and utilisation thereof during 1987-88;

(c) whether any new fishing harbours are proposed to be constructed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Allocation of Central grants were made for Vizhinjam and Neendakara Fishery harbours during 1987-88. Allocation for 1988-89 has not been made for any specific fishery harbour.

(b) Allocation of funds during 1987-88 was Rs. 40.00 lakhs and Rs. 75.00 lakhs for Vizhinjam and Neendakara fishery harbours respectively. This allocation has been fully utilized.

(c) A new fishery harbour has been sanctioned at Puthiappa in Kerala State.

(d) Puthiappa fishery harbour is expected to cost Rs. 527.00 lakhs and cater to 250 mechanised fishing vessels after completion.

Complaints against FP Shops in Delhi

8314. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have a number of complaints regarding false statement of non-availability of stocks and underweight against the Fair Price Shops in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against guilty shopkeepers; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to check such malpractices in Public Distribution System ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). There had been a number of complaints against Fair Price Shop owners in Delhi including complaints regarding false statements on non-availability of stocks and under-weighment. Exclusive data only on these two categories of complaints is not available. However, the total number of complaints received against Fair Price Shop holders during 1986-87 and 1987-88 were 1451 and 1490 respectively.

(c) The details of action taken in respect of these complaints are given below :

Year	Action taken		
	Licences suspended	Prosecutions launched	Departmental action initiated
1986-87	55	19	854
1987-88	49	10	738

(d) Some of the measures taken to check malpractices in the functioning of the Public Distribution System are as follows :

(i) Intensification of checking by the Enforcement Branch on the basis of the complaints received.

(ii) Regular routine checking of the fair price shops by the staff of the concerned Circles.

(iii) Some voluntary organisations have been authorised to inspect the Fair Price Shops.

(iv) The officers of the Controller, Weights & Measures also check the Weights & Measures being used by the Fair Price Shops.

(v) A Control Room has been set up which functions from 8 AM to

9 PM on all days including holidays to receive complaints regarding the functioning of the Public Distribution System in Delhi for taking suitable remedial action.

[Translation]

Super Zinc Smelter at Chanderia in Rajasthan

8315. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up a Super Zinc Smelter at Chanderia in Chittorgarh District of Rajasthan is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the financial approval therefor will be accorded;

(c) whether a thermal power plant has also been sanctioned to run this smelter plant; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in starting work on all these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (d). A proposal of M/s. Hindustan Zinc Limited, a Central Government Undertaking, to develop the Rampura-Agucha Zinc-Lead deposit in Bhilwara District and based thereon, to set up a Zinc-Lead Smelter at Chanderia in Chittorgarh District of Rajasthan was considered by the Government in 1986 and approval was conveyed for completion of certain pre-investment activities leading to the preparation of firm cost estimates before taking an investment decision. Firm cost estimates for the project have since been prepared and submitted to the Government recently. The same are now being examined. It is expected that a decision will be taken later this year.

[English]

Tubewells in Vasant Vihar CPWD Complex

8316. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the water supplying capacity of each tubewell in the Vasant Vihar CPWD Complex, New Delhi and the actual water

being supplied by each of the tubewell daily on an average;

(b) whether the authorities concerned do not take prompt action if, any tubewells are found out of order, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of tubewells which went out of order in the month of June/July, 1987 but were got rectified only in the month of December 1987 and even after that their water remains declared unfit for drinking purpose till date;

(d) what steps Government propose to take against the persons responsible for this type of negligence and to improve the situation; and

(e) the reasons for which authorities do not get water metres installed at each and every tubewell to check the actual functioning and supply of water by these tubewells ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Six tubewells have been board in Vasant Vihar. Only two of these have potable water with rated capacity of 1981 and 1585 gallons of water per hour respectively. About 40,000 gallons of water is supplied to the residents daily out of these two tubewells, which are run for about 12 hours daily.

(b) Action to rectify the defects is taken promptly as soon as the same as detected.

(c) Only one tubewell with non-potable water went out of order in July, 1987. It was recommended in December, 1987.

(d) does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.

(e) There is no necessity of installation of water meters in tubewells to check their functioning.

Non-Payment of Wages by Contractor in Vasant Vihar

8317. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the per day wages being paid to contractor by the CPWD in Vasant Vihar CPWD complex, New Delhi for the services of masons, fitters, carpenters and wiremen;

(b) the daily wages being paid by the contractor to the above employees;

(c) whether Government are aware that the contractors do not pay even 50 per cent of the wages to such workers which they received from Government on their account; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the wages as prescribed under the Minimum Wage Act are paid to such workers; and

(e) the reasons, for which Government do not employ their own workers in these categories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d). The CPWD is paying at the rate of around Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 per day to the contractor for utilising the services of one Mason or one Fitter or one Carpenter or one Wireman, as per requirement. This rate includes, besides the daily wages of a skilled worker, whose services are utilized on a particular day, wages of one helper to such worker, the cost of the materials required for doing maintenance and the contractors overheads and profits. The contractor is paying the mason/fitter/carpenter/wireman employed by him wages as prescribed under the minimum Wages Act and this is ensured by the CPWD.

(e) The reasons are that there is a ban on creation of new posts and also because maintenance of quarters through contractors has not been found uneconomical as compared to maintenance through departmental workers. Also, the maintenance through contractors is being done on an experimental basis.

Purchase of Machines by ITIs

8318. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of grant released by the National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT) to Karnataka for purchase of machinery by Government Industrial Training Institutes during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the number of Government Industrial Training Institute that have purchased new machinery out of the grant so far, in Karnataka;

(c) the total number of Government Industrial Training Institutes which sought this grant for purchase of machinery in Karnataka; and

(d) whether Government propose to release more grants to enable to all Government Industrial Training Institutes to have new machinery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Out of a total allocation of Rs. 60 lakhs during Seventh Plan under the scheme of upgradation of State Government ITIs for improving the quality of training (replacement of machinery), the amount released by the Ministry of Labour during 1986-87 and 1987-88 is Rs. 44 lakhs.

(b) 11 ITIs.

(c) 13 ITIs.

(d) No, Sir. Only 13 Government ITIs which are more than 15 years old would be considered for the release of grant during VIIth Plan period. The balance amount of Rs. 16.00 lakhs would be released during remaining 2 years of plan period subject to availability of funds from the Planning Commission and submission of utilisation certificate by the State Government of the previously released funds.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Kisan Sahkar Chini Mill at Akbarpur (U.P.)

8319. SHRI R.P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government had issued a licence to set up "The Kisan Sahkar Chini Mill Limited, Akbarpur" in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh in 1975-76 but it was delicensed later on and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount of share capital of the farmers in the said sugar mill, where it is deposited the manner in which it is being utilised and the manner in which Government want to utilise it;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that due to the closure of Shahganj Sugar mill sugarcane growers are facing a great difficulty in the disposal of sugarcane; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue again the licence for setting up "The Kisan Sahkari Chini Mill Limited, Akbarpur" and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): No, Sir. A licence was granted on 20th April, 1974 to The Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd. for setting up a new sugar factory of 1250 TCD at Akbarpur, District Faizabad in U.P. As the Cooperative Society failed to take effective steps to establish the new industrial undertaking within the time stipulated in the Licence, the licence was revoked on 18th March 1978.

(b) The collection of share capital, its deposits and the mode of utilisation is the responsibility of the Promoter and the respective State Government.

(c) Department of Food has not received any representation in this regard. However, the State Governments are required to suitably reallocate the sugarcane amongst existing sugar factories in order to remove hardship to the cane growers.

(d) No application for setting up a sugar factory at Akbarpur, District Faizabad in terms of new licencing policy for the Seventh Plan, issued vide Press Note dated 2.1.1987, has been received in the Department of Food. Application, as and when received in this Department, will be considered in accordance with the licencing policy in force at that time.

[English]

Per-Capita Expenditure on Development of Agriculture in Kerala

8320. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent on the development of agriculture in Kerala;

(b) whether this amount is below the national average, if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the per capita expenditure development in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c). Development of Agriculture being a State subject, State Governments are primarily responsible for agricultural development in the States. For this, programmes are formulated under the State Plans. The efforts of the State Governments are, however, supplemented by the Central Government through implementation of a number of major programmes under the Central as also Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes. Outlays for Agriculture including Forestry, Cooperation, etc.. under the successive State Five Year Plans showed a continuous increase. Actual Plan expenditure in respect of Kerala was Rs. 2220 lakh, Rs. 3236 lakh, Rs. 6199 lakh and Rs. 17914 lakh during Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Plan respectively. The outlay during the Seventh Plan have been fixed at a level as high as Rs. 31675 lakhs. After the State-wise population figures for the Seventh Plan period are thrown up by the next population Census which is due in 1991, it should be possible to work out the per capita expenditure on Agriculture in the Seventh Plan.

Production and Import of Sugar

8321. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the production and consumption of sugar during last three years; and

(b) the quantity imported and released for free sale in the open market during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) Production and consumption of sugar for the last three years are given as under:

Sugar Year (October- September)	Production of sugar	Internal consump- tion (both Indigenous and impor- ted sugar)
1984-85	61.44	78.90
1985-86	70.17	83.53
1986-87	85.02	87.51

(b) Quantity of sugar imported and released for free sale in the open market for the last three years is as under :

Sugar Year (October- September)	Quantity imported (Provisional)	Total quant- ity of sugar rele- ased for free sale in open market (both Indi- genous and Imported sugar)
1984-85	12.17	46.35
1985-86	16.26	49.10
1986-87	9.53	51.70

Aid for Promotion of Spices

8322. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation made for the Promotion of the spices during the current year; and

(b) how much amount is going to be spent in Kerala in this regard during this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) An allocation of Rs. 171.735 lakh has been made during the

current year for the promotion of spices. Out of this, an allocation of Rs. 163.815 lakh has been made for Integrated Development of Spices whch is equally shared between the Centre and the States.

A provisions of Rs. 4.920 lakh has been made in respect of Andaman and Nicobar Administration. A provision of Rs. 3 lakh has been made for Centrsl Sector Scheme for Development of Spices and Establishment of Central Nurseries for Pepper in Agricultural Universities.

(b) A provision of Rs. 148.987 lakh has been allocated to Kerala in this regard. Out of which Rs. 147.935 lakh is under the Scheme for Integrated Development of Spices and Rs. 1.052 lakh under the above Central Sector Scheme.

III Effect on use of Pesticides

8323. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the contents of a paper presented at the National workshop on "Pesticide residues in food" held at Ahmedabad in the last week of March, 1988;

(b) the reaction of Government to the ill-effects of DDT and BHC, the use of which has been banned in developed countries, high lighted in the afore-mentioned workshop; and

(c) whether the consumption of pesticides in India has has increased as compared to its consumption in 1960 and if so, by how much ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major reasons for a decision to ban any pesticide in any country, besides toxicological reasons, are availability of safer biodegradable but costlier substitutes; non-acceptability due to climatic reasons peculiar to a particular country; local studies about residues in animals and environment; development of insecticide resistance to insects; ecological considerations etc. These factors vary from country to country.

In India, only those pesticides are allowed to be used which are registered by the Registration Committee after taking into consideration all the relevant factors like bio-efficacy, toxicology, risk benefit ratio, agro-climatic conditions etc.

In India, an Expert Committee was set up in 1984 to review all the pesticides in use at present in the country with a view to banning the production, import and use of those which are no longer in use in other countries. The Committee has recommended the restricted use of BHC. No decision has been taken on the report of the Committee on DDT.

(c) The consumption of pesticides was about 8,620 MT (technical grade) in 1960 and about 50,000 MT (technical grade) in 1986.

EC Aid for Operation Flood

8324. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement to continue the European Community (E.C.) dairy aid to the country till 1994, Phase III of the Operation Flood, has been reached; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the deliveries of various dairy products expected under the agreement;

(c) the impact of dairy aid on the milk prices in the country and the extent of the hike expected;

(d) the estimated project cost of Operation Flood-III;

(e) whether the World Bank is also assisting the Operation Flood-III; if so, the loan expected therefrom and the terms and conditions attached to the deal; and

(f) whether any new system to monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of Operation Flood-III is proposed to be set up; if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An agreement to continue the European Community

(E.C.) dairy aid to the country till 1994 has been reached. 75,000 MT of Skim Milk Powder and 25,000 MT of butter oil is expected to be delivered over a period of 7 years (1987-94). The basic objectives of Operation Flood (OF-III) are to consolidate the gains already achieved, expansion in the number of village cooperative societies, expansion of milk procurement, processing and marketing facilities, productivity enhancement measures, etc.

(c) No adverse impact of dairy aid on the milk prices in the country is anticipated. The conserved gift commodities under OF, III are to serve the twin objectives of generating funds for the programme and providing for a buffer stock necessary to take care of loan years. The commodities will be priced in such a way as not to affect domestic prices or production.

(d) and (e). The estimated project cost as given in the Staff Appraisal Report (SAR) of the World Bank is US \$ 677.7 million (Rs. 914.95 crore). Of this amount, the World Bank assistance would be of the order of US \$ 360 million (equivalent to Rs 486 crore). Its assistance would comprise of International Development Association (IDA) credit of US \$ 160 million and an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan of US \$ 200 million. IDA credit is repayable by Government of India over a period of 35 years including a grace period of 10 years. The IBRD loan is repayable over 20 years which include a grace period of 5 years.

(f) Monitoring and evaluation has been an on going activity in O.F. project implementation. During Operation Flood-III, surveys and special studies would be carried out as part of project monitoring and evaluation activity,

Steel Service Centres

8325. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up steel service centres for promoting the use of steel products;

(b) if so, the places where such centres will be set up; and

(c) whether these centres will in any way improve the customer services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). With a view to improving customer services, SAIL is considering a proposal to set up steel Service Centres. The details are yet to be finalised.

Land Rate Fixed by DDA for Recovery of East Delhi Colonies

8326. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the market rates of land fixed by the Delhi Development Authority

for recovery of unearned increase in case of transfer/sale of residential plots in New Rajdhani Enclave, Preet Vihar, Swasthya Vihar, Nirman Vihar and other cooperative housing colonies in Trans-Yamuna area from 1 January, 1978 till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : The market rates for calculating the unearned increase are fixed by the Delhi Administration. As per the policy, the market rate fixed for Jhilmil Tahirpur residential scheme have been made applicable to the colonies developed by various Co-operative Societies in Trans-Yamuna area which is as under :

S.No.	Year	Market rate P. sq. mt.
1.	1979	Rs. 192
2.	1-1-80 to 31-12-80	Rs. 212
3.	1-1-81 to 30-12-81	Rs. 320
4.	1-11-81 to 31-3-82	Rs. 400
5.	1-4-82 to 31-3-85	Rs. 600
6.	1-4-85 to 31-3-86	Rs. 660
7.	1-4-86 to 31-3-87	Rs. 1155
8.	1-4-87 to 31-3-88	Rs. 1330

ICAR'S Project on Prawn Breeding

8327. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the development scheme and research projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at the Prawn Breeding Centre, Narakkal, Cochin; and

(b) the amount spent on this centre during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Some of the important research projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at the Narakkal Research Centre are as follows :

(i) Breeding and culture of commercially important species of prawns and fin-fish.

(ii) Hatchery production of prawn seed.

(iii) Culture of live feed organisms and formulation of artificial feeds for prawn and fin-fish.

(b) Prior to October, 1987, expenditure on the Narakkal Centre was met from the total budget sanctioned to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and hence no separate expenditure details are available. However, for the period October, 1987 to March, 1988, when the Centre functioned under the Central Institute of Brackish-water Aquaculture (CIBA), the expenditure was Rs. 3,55,000.00.

Increase in Steel Prices

8328. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- the number of times the price of steel was raised during the last five years;
- the percentage increase in the price of steel affected during the period;
- whether rise in steel prices during the last five years has benefited the private sector iron and steel mines of the public sector; and

(d) the details of comparative benefits earned by private and public sector iron and steel mills as a result of the rise in steel prices during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). The number of times the prices of steel was raised during the last five years and the percentage of increase effected during the period is as under :

Date	Approx. % increase	
1.4.83	Neutralisation of Increase in profit due to revised freight classification by Railways	4%
24.7.83	General Price Rise—average increase	5%
23.6.84	General Price Rise—average increase	15%
21.2.85	General Price Rlse—average increase	15%
24.12.87	General Price Rise—average increase	15.6%
1.3.88	Neutralisation of Increase in Excise Duty	0.4%
1.4.88	Neutralisation of Increase in Railway freight	0.5%

(c) Since the J.P.C. prices are applicable to all main producers, the price increase would benefit both the public sector as well as the private sector steel plants.

(d) Details of comparative benefits earned by private and public sector are not available.

[Translation]**Construction of Houses by DDA in Motia Khan**

8329. SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on 14 March, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 2880 regarding construction of houses by DDA in Motia Khan and state :

(a) the dates of issuing the allotment and demand letters to the allottees of LIG flats in Motia Khan and the floor-wise price of these flats demanded from them; and

(b) whether while determining the price of these flats, the fact that major portions

of these flats were constructed 5-6 year ago has been taken into consideration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The allotment-cum-demand letters were issued to the allottees on 21-12-1987 and 4-1-1988.

Floor-wise price of LIG flats at Motia Khan finalised in 11/87 is as under :

GF	Rs. 75000 to Rs. 80800
FF	Rs. 82500 to Rs. 103000
SF	Rs. 78400 to Rs. 96100
TF	Rs. 77200 to Rs. 93800

(b) Prices of these flats (Disposal cost) have been worked out as per the prescribed formula on the basis of actual expenditure incurred upto the completion of the dwelling units plus anticipated liabilities on no profit no loss basis. It depends upon the plot area, design specification etc. and the rate at which the work is awarded to the contractor.

[*English*]

Housing Shortage in Delhi

8330. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated housing shortage in Delhi during each of the last three years;

(b) the estimated fulfilment of the shortage during the above period, by the public sector and the private sector; and

(c) the targets fixed and how do they compare with the achievements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) DDA or Delhi Administration have not conducted any survey recently about housing shortage in Delhi.

(b) 1,38,537 registrants under various housing scheme are awaiting allotment with DDA. DDA has allotted 44,563 flats of various categories during the last three years. The information about the contribution of private sector towards fulfilment of the housing shortage is not available.

(c) No such targets for the years 1985-86 & 1986-87 were laid down. However, an Action Plan for the construction of 28,696 flats for the year 1987-88 was prepared.

The details of the actual position in regard to construction during each year is as follows :

Year	No. of flats
1985-86	16,519
1986-87	11,926
1987-88 (Upto Feb. 88)	16,118

[*Translation*]

Supply of Drinking Water to Problem Villages in Uttar Pradesh

8331. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated during 1987-88 for providing drinking water in scarcity villages in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of villages where drinking water problem has been solved; and

(c) the number of villages in Azamgarh and Ballia districts where drinking water problem has been solved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerating Rural Water Programme (ARWSP), a sum of Rs. 44.82 crores was allocated to Uttar Pradesh during 1987-88 for providing safe drinking water facilities to problem villages including scarcity villages. For tackling drinking water scarcity in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh on account of drought, a ceiling of expenditure of R. 8.70 crores was approved during 1987-88. In addition, a sum of Rs. 0.53 crores was approved for purchase of drilling rigs and geophysical equipments.

(b) Out of 43,906 problem villages that had remained uncovered at the beginning of the Seventh Plan (1.4.85), 31738 problem villages including those partially covered, had been provided with safe drinking water facilities by 31.3.88.

(c) As on 1.3.88, out of 4718 number of identified problem villages in Azamgarh district and out of 1118 identified problem villages in Ballia district, 2282 problem villages in case of Azamgarh district and all 1118 problem villages in case of Ballia district had been covered with safe drinking water facilities, either fully or partially. The residual problem villages in Azamgarh district are expected to be covered by the end of the Seventh Plan period.

[*English*]

Employment Crisis 'n Punjab

8332. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Employment crises in Punjab" appearing

in the "Indian Express" dated 3 December, 1987;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any steps to overcome the crisis of job opportunities in Punjab; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Centrally aided/Sponsored Schemes like (i) Self Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth, (ii) Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment, (iii) National Rural Employment Programme (iv) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and (v) Integrated Rural Development Programme are being implemented in all the States including Punjab.

A statement indicating the details in regard to these Scheme/Programme is given below.

Statement

Scheme of Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed

The Scheme of Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth was launched by the Government in the year 1983 and modified in 1986-87 with a basic objective to provide self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in industry, service and business routes. The scheme will continue during the remaining period of 7th Five Year Plan with an annual target of 2.5 lakh beneficiaries. The progress pertaining to the implementation of this scheme in respect of Punjab State beginning from the year 1983-84 to 1986-87 is as under :

Year	Target	No. of cases sanctioned by Banks
1983-84	6700	9047
1984-85	12000	12212
1985-86	15000	11677
1986-87	15000	15037

Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment

A national scheme of training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment was launched as centrally sponsored scheme on 15th August, 1979. The main thrust of this

scheme is on equipping rural youth in the age group of 18-35 years with necessary skills and technology to take up Self-Employment in the broad fields of agriculture and allied activities, Industry, Services and business.

Items	Sixth Plan	Seventh Plan (upto Feb.)		
		1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1. Number of youth Trained	56096	9030	7548	5162
2. Number of trained youth self employed	30693	4133	5250	5157
3. Number of trained youth employed on wages	1411	235	191	173
4. Total number of trained youth employed	32104	4368	5441	5330

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

IRDP, a major instrument of the Government strategy to alleviate poverty was introduced with effect from 1983. The objective of IRDP is to enable selected families below the poverty line in rural areas to cross the poverty line through self-employment. The strategy adopted is to provide the beneficiaries with productive assets through subsidy and loan.

The families assisted under IRDP in Punjab are as under

(in lakh Nos.)	
Sixth Plan	3.96
Seventh Plan	
1985-86	0.65
1986-87	0.99
1987-88	0.63 (upto Feb. '88)

National Rural Employment Programme

National Rural Employment Programme was launched during the Sixth Plan and continues to be implemented during the Seventh Plan with a three fold objectives of creation of employment opportunities, creation of production community assets for strengthening rural infrastructure and improving overall quality of life. The employment generated in Punjab during the Sixth and Seventh Plan under the Programme is as under.

(Lakh mandays)

Sixth Plan	102.68
Seventh Plan	
1985-86	27.34
1986-87	19.04
1987-88	15.75 (upto Feb. '88)

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme was launched on

15th August, 1983 with a view to contribute significantly to generation of additional employment in the rural areas particularly for the landless workers. This Programme aims at providing guarantee of employment upto 100 days in a year to atleast one member of each landless household. The employment generated in Punjab under this Programme during the Sixth Plan and the first three years of the Seventh Plan is as under :

(Lakh Mandays)

Sixth Plan	20.95
Seventh Plan	
1985-86	20.69
1986-87	18.02
1987-88	18.47

Wastage of Milk in DMS Plants

8333. SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that tonnes of milk is wasted in D.M.S. Depot, Patel Nagar, New Delhi due to mishandling of cans and containers; if so, the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken;

(b) whether the National Institute of Nutrition and Hygience, New Delhi has conducted any survey in this regard; if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken on the recommendations of the survey team; and

(d) the procurement and off-take of milk per day from the depot and the installed capacity of the plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Necessary information is given below :

Procurement during April, 1988	About 1.81 lakh litres (on an average) per day
Supplies by DMS during April, 1988	About 4.00 lakh litres Per day on an average
Installed Capacity	4.15 lakh litres per day.

Take over of Bisra Stone Lime & Co. Ltd.

8334. SHRI CHANTIMANI JENA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have taken over the Bisra Stone Lime & Company Limited;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if the financial crisis was the cause for its take over, what steps have been taken by Government to revive it; and
- (d) whether Government have provided requisite assistance to the company to clear its dues to the State Government and also to its employees including retired ones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Government has acquired ownership of all shares owned by the erstwhile Bird & Co. in the various Companies of the Bird Group, including Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited (BSLC). By virtue of this acquisition, RSLC has come under Government management.

(b) and (c). The purpose of this acquisition was to bring about an improvement in the operations of the Company. Accordingly, a plan has already been prepared and is presently under implementation.

(d) Government has provided substantial financial assistance by way of loans to the Company. Most of the amounts due to employees, including all dues to retired employees, have been cleared, as also some dues of the State Government.

Allotment of Flats to Retired Persons

8335. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the latest progress regarding construction of MIG and LIG flats by DDA under the 1985 scheme for retired or retiring Central Government employees;

(b) the names of places where the said flats are being constructed;

(c) the time by which the flats will be completed/allotted; and

(d) whether all the registrants will be covered during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d). The flats are not being constructed for a specific scheme of registration. But the flats are allotted out of those under construction by DDA. It is expected that all the registrants of RPS 1985 scheme will be allotted flats during the year 1988.

[Translation]

Mobilisation of Drought Assistance

8336. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have been able to mobilise adequate quantity of drinking water, means of irrigation, fodder for cattle etc. for the States under the drought relief schemes, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of cases of misuse of drought relief fund detected in drought relief operations, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). It is the primary responsibility of the State Government to provide relief in the wake of drought and other natural calamities. The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments through provision of financial assistance. The States are autonomous in the matter of execution and administration of drought relief programmes. The information sought relate to matters concerning the administration of

natural calamities relief falling essentially within the sphere of activity of the State Governments and so is not collected by the Central Government.

Bonded Labour in Uttar Pradesh

8337. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bonded labour freed in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the places to which they belonged; and

(b) the steps being undertaken by the Government for identification and rehabilitation of the bonded labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The number of bonded labourers identified and freed as per the information made available by Uttar Pradesh Government during the last three years is given below :

Year	No. of bonded labourers freed
1985-86	3476
1986-87	5519
1987-88	Nil

Since the inception of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976, bonded labourers have been identified in Dehradun, Uttar Kashi, Tehri Garhwal, Hamirpur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Banda, Muzaffarnagar, Faizabad, Fatehpur, Jhansi, Kheri Lakhimpur, Meerut, Sitapur, Hardoi, Rae Bareilly, Balia and Aligarh.

(b) State Governments have been requested from time to time to conduct surveys etc. for identification of bonded labourers. Annual targets are set by the Central Government for each State for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Progress towards achievement of targets is monitored regularly and defaulting States are advised to take corrective measures for achievement of target. A scheme for involvement of voluntary agencies in the task of identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been launched on 30.10.1987.

Civic Amenities to Unauthorised Colonies

8338. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether civic amenities are being provided by Government to the jhuggis constructed on the land of C.P.W.D. in the D.I.Z. area of New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether civic amenities are not being provided by Government to the unauthorised colonies; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Upgraded Technology for BALCO

8339. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the technology of the Bharat Aluminium Company's aluminium plants; and

(b) if so, the steps taken therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to upgrade the technology of BALCO's Aluminium Plant at Korba. However, for exploring the possibility in this regard, some leading international aluminium companies have been approached by the company. BALCO has been also identified 2 parties for undertaking a feasibility study for effecting energy conservation in their smelter at Korba.

Development of Shakti Sthal

8340. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for development of Shakti Sthal with a sum of Rs. 3 crores as reported in "The Times of India" dated 29 March, 1988;

(b) whether the development work includes landscaping, construction of kiosks and toilets, parking space, pathways, security lights and horticulture works; and

(c) if so, how much time it will take for its development and the estimated expenditure thereon, time-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c). Yes. The work of development of Shakti Sthal is almost complete. Only residual work is being done now. Itemwise details of the estimated expenditure are as under :

1. Civil Works	Rs. 2.80 Crores
2. Electrical Works	Rs. 0.07 Crores
3. Horticulture Works	Rs. 0.23 Crores
Total	Rs. 3.10 Crores

Demurrage Paid by Hindustan Zinc Limited

8341. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether extensive demurrage charges are being paid to Road Carriers by Agni-gundala Lead Project of Hindustan Zinc Limited, Bandalemootho;

(b) if so, the amount paid on account of demurrage during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the circumstances under which demurrage charges were paid and the reasons for not directing the carriers to deliver the goods at Bandalemootho;

(d) whether any action was taken against the persons who failed to take delivery within the stipulated time; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Allotment of Houses to SC & ST

8342. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the schemes under which the Delhi Development Authority has registered the names of the persons to allot house to them;

(b) the scheme-wise and category-wise, total number of persons registered under the schemes;

(c) the total number of houses constructed during the last three years under each scheme, the number of houses allotted and the number of the houses yet to be allotted;

(d) the scheme-wise and category-wise number of the persons belonging to Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes registered and allotted flats during the above period;

(e) whether there is any shortfall in the registration and allotment of flats to SC & ST; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The D.D.A. has registered persons for allotment of flats under following schemes :

General Housing Scheme

M.I.G.	L.I.G.	Janta	Total
25516	22858	19794	68,168
<i>General Housing Scheme (RRS)</i>			
2695	1396	279	4,370
<i>New Pattern Scheme, 1979</i>			
47521	67502	56249	1,71,272
<i>Self Finance Scheme</i>			
			73,045

(c) Total number of houses constructed during the last three years under various schemes are as under :

Year	SFS	MIG	LIG	Janta/CSP/EWS	Total
1985-86	4767	5670	2900	3182	16519
1986-87	1052	3052	4242	3580	11926
1987-88	6726	4304	1666	3422	16118
(Upto Feb. 88)					44563

The Housing Department of DDA has allotted the following number of flats under various housing schemes during the last three years :

General Housing Scheme

Year	MIG	LIG	Janta	Total
1985-86	1902	1786	609	4299
1986-87	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1987-88	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979

1985-86	7144	5741	5608	18493
1986-87	Nil	Nil	1957	1957
1987-88	4840	2682	2935	10457

Self Financing Scheme

1985-86	5025
1986-87	1877
1987-88	3957

(d) The scheme RPS 1985 was opened for retired and retiring Government servant which include the persons belonging to SC/ST. Hence, no separate list for SC/ST has been prepared.

There is no special scheme for registration of SC/ST under SFS. However, there is reservation of 25% of the flats released for allocation to the members of SC/ST. Details of allocation to SC/ST are as under :

Year	Flats allocated to SC/ST
1985-86	33
1986-87	39
1987-88	352

In N.P.R.S. 1979 Scheme details of registration and allocated flats to SC/ST are as under :

Total number of registrants of SC/ST at the time of registration under N.P.R.S.. 1979

M.I.G.	L.I.C.	Janta
2126	5839	10353

Flats allotted to SC/ST during the last three years

Year	MIG	LIG	Janta
1985-86	1296	1437	1402
1986-87	Nil	Nil	489
1987-88	344	671	734

(e) and (f). No Sir. All the SC/ST registrants are being allotted flats as per their reservations. In MIG (NP) all the SC/ST registrants have been allocated flats. In Janata and LIG categories allotment has been made upto priority No. 3223 and 2071 respectively.

In Self Financing Scheme registrants applying for allocation of flats have to be considered keeping in view choice of localities indicated by them, as allocation is made on the basis of the locality preference.

In General Housing Scheme all the registrants have been allotted/allocated flats except for RPS, 1985 who are likely to get allotment during 1988.

[English]

Diversion of Insurance Business of IFFCO and KRIBHCO to United Insurance Corporation

8343. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that IFFCO and 'KRIBHCO' and other Government Fertiliser companies have diverted their insurance business of crores of Rupees to the United Insurance Corporation during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) if so, the amounts involved in respect of each such company; and

(c) what are the reasons for such decision by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) to (c). In 1986-87, IFFCO distributed risk insurance amongst all the four subsidiaries of General Insurance Corporation (GIC) including United India Insurance Co. Ltd. with a view to obtaining better services. KRIBHCO also entrusted their operational insurance requirements to consortium of three subsidiaries of GIC.

The amounts paid to United India Insurance Company Ltd. during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 by IFFCO and KRIBHCO are as under :

S. No.	Name of the Company	Year	(Rs. in lakhs)
1.	IFFCO	1986-87	23.85
		1987-88	100.00 (approx.)
2.	KRIBHCO	1986-87	109.00
		1987-88	225.00

Information in respect of other Government fertilizer companies is being collected.

On Going Projects

8344. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of on-going projects, when were these launched, the original completion schedule and the present completion schedule;

(b) what was the original cost of each project and what will be the estimated cost when each project is finally completed;

(c) what are the precise reasons for delays in the case of each project; and

(d) the effect of these on time and cost over-run ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Details of On-going major projects in Steel and Mines Sectors are given below in the statement.

(d) Effect on the time and cost over-run will be known after the projects are completed.

Statement
On-Going Major Projects in Steel & Mines Sectors

(Rs. in Crores)

Projects	Zero Date or Date of Sanction	Commissioning Schedule		Cost Estimates		Principal reasons for delay
		Original	Actual/Likely	Original	Revised	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Steel Projects						
1. Bhilai 4 MT Expansion	February, 1978	Dec., 1981	All major facilities for 4 MT capacity stand completed. Work on some additional facilities is under progress.	937.70	2145.5	Delay by equipment supplier and inadequate resource mobilisation by some construction agencies.
2. Bokaro 4 MT Expansion	May, 1978	Dec., 1982	September, 1988	947.24	2092.16	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Vizag Steel Project	June, 1979	Dec., 1987	Dec. 1988— I Stage June, 1990— II Stage	2256.00	6849.70	Slippages occurred in the progress of construction of the Plant right from 1982 due to constraints of funds.
4. Bokaro Captive Power Plant (60 MW X 3)	Sept. 1978	March, 1983	Sept. 1988	75.94	154.14	Delay by turnkey contractors and suppliers M/s. Elekttrim of Poland. Fire accident of July, 1986 has also contributed to delay.
5. Rourkela Silicon Steel Project	November, 1977	January, 1981	June, 1988	109.75	186.35	Delay in supply of equipment by indigenous suppliers or whom orders were placed after withdrawal of letter of intent from foreign suppliers at the insistence of DGTID. Non-successful equipment trial runs.
6. Durgapur Steel Plant (Modernisation)	Sept., 1987	Sept., 1992	—	1357.00	—	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Mines Projects

(i) **Bharat Aluminium Co. Limited**

Gandhamardhan Bauxite Project

July, 1982

April, 1985

Feb. 1989

Orissa Aluminium Complex

October, 1987

Nov. 1988

Delay in implementation of the project is on account of local agitation relating to environmental issues.

31.20

62.70

Delay on account of shifting of zero date of Jan., 1981 to effective date of February, 1982.

1242.36

2408.14

Import of Food Processing Technology

8345. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Food Technology Research Institute and other food technologists have opposed to the indiscriminate import of technologies in food processing; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). As the import of technology is allowed on merits, Government does not permit indiscriminate import of technologies in any area, including food processing. Proposals for import of technology in the country are first examined by the sponsoring authorities and finally by the Technical Evaluation Committee in the Directorate General of Technical Development, taking into consideration the views of all the concerned Departments/organisations.

Proportion of Production of Sunflower Oil

8346. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the proportion of sunflower oil to the total production of edible oils in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : The production of Sunflower oil is about 4.6 per cent of the total production of edible oils during Oil Year 1986-87.

Workers Participation in Management

8347. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given on 4 April, 1988 to Starred Question No. 551 regarding Workers' Participation in Management and state :

(a) the particulars of industrial units where the scheme of Employees' Participation in Management has been introduced so far; and

(b) the names of workers' representatives on the Board of Directors in each case and the national trade union organisation to which they belong ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to introduction of the Scheme of Employees Participation in Management at the Board level. All the Public Sector Banks have a Workman-Director on their Boards. The names of the Workers-Directors in each case are given in the statement below. The information regarding the Trade Union Organisations to which they belong is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the bank	Name of the incumbent
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	Shri M.R. Awasthi
2.	SB of Hyderabad	Shri Ch. Eswara Rao
3.	SB of Indore	Shri Prakash Hardas
4.	SB of B & J	Shri T B. Rai
5.	SB of Mysore	Shri A.B. Ambaprasad
6.	SB of Patiala	Shri A.N. Sharma
7.	SB of Travancore	Shri P. Kakkessary

1 2

3

8. SB of Saurashtra	Shri J.P. Bhatt
9. Central Bank of India	Shri C.H. Venkatachalam
10. Bank of India	Shri G.G.K. Murthy
11. Punjab National Bank	Shri T.P. Gorai
12. Bank of Baroda	Vacant (process in hand)
13. UCO Bank	Shri S.G. Das
14. Canara Bank	Shri U.S. Rao
15. United Bank of India	Shri P. Dey
16. Dena Bank	Shri G.A. Pathak
17. Syndicate Bank	Shri B.M. Karkara
18. Union Bank of India	Shri M.K. Mundul
19. Allahabad Bank	Vacant CLC(C) report awaited
20. Indian Bank	Shri H.D. Nagesha
21. Bank of Maharashtra	Shri N.S. Bhagaji
22. Indian Overseas Bank	Vacant CLC(C) Report awaited
23. Andhra Bank	Vacant (Process in hand)
24. Punjab & Sind Bank	Shri R.S. Khera
25. New Bank of India	Vacant CLC(C) Report awaited
26. Vijaya Bank	Shri R. Damodarana
27. Corporation Bank	Vacant CLC(C) Report awaited
28. Oriental Bank of Commerce	Vacant CLC(C) report awaited

Retrenchment in Hindustan Lever Ltd.

8348. SARIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that a number of units of Hindustan Lever Ltd. have applied for retrenchment of hundreds of their permanent workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or contemplated to prevent retrenchment at least from multi-nationals and other units which are showing huge growth and declaring dividends ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Information is being

collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cess Collection from Beedi Workers

8349. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) how much cess collected so far from the beedi workers by Government to utilise the same to the welfare of the beedi workers;

(b) the welfare schemes implemented by Government for them; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH

TYTLER) : (a) No cess is being collected from beedi workers. However, an amount of Rs. 32.5 crores approximately has been collected upto December, 1987 by way of cess under the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976.

(b) and (c). The welfare schemes generally cover medical, educational, housing etc. aspects. 132 medical institutions are being run for beedi workers. Scholarships are sanctioned to children of beedi workers. Subsidy and loan for housing is given.

Committee for Wage Settlement in Public Sector Undertakings

8350. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a standing committee for public sector undertakings comprising of the Centre, management and labour to go into issues relating to wage settlements;

(b) if so, the main task of this committee;

(c) the names of its members; and

(d) by what time they are likely to submit their recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Comprehensive Scheme for Soil Conservation of Orissa

8351. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa has prepared a comprehensive scheme for soil conservation work in the catchment areas of Upper Kolab and submitted it to Union Government;

(b) if so, the estimate cost of that soil conservation scheme;

(c) the amount sanctioned by Government for implementing that scheme in the catchment area of Upper Kolab in Orissa in 1988-89; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of Orissa has furnished a proposal for soil conservation works in the catchment areas of Upper Kolab at an estimated cost of Rs. 32.03 crores.

(c) and (d). On account of resource constraints, it has not been found possible to take up new catchments during 7th Plan. Therefore, the question of sanction of funds in the year 1988-89 for Upper Kolab catchment does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Yesterday in Tripura in the by-election in Fatikroy...

MR. SPEAKER : It is for the Election Commission. I cannot do anything.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, you know it. Nothing goes on record. Election Commission is the place to take it up.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have never disallowed any discussion regarding electoral reforms and we can again discuss it if you like. But we cannot take up this thing.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You may speak loudly or do anything, it can not be done.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : Election Commission is responsible for that. I have not allowed anybody.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have always discussed the electoral reforms. There is no problem; it can be discussed again.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You allowed a discussion on Garhwal.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I did not.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Ask the Professor. He is standing beside you. What is the use of making noise now ? Ask the Prof.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Since you have asked him to refer to me, I may say that you have allowed a discussion on electoral reforms with special reference to what happened in Garhwal. Allow it, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : What is under the rules is always allowed. What is not under the rules I cannot. You give it in writing, I will see.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please listen to me. It is a very important procedural issue that I raise and that will guide our work for times to come. Already this House had appointed the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Befors. I wish to point out to you that already two members have publicly said that while finalising this report, they were not allowed to append their minutes of dissent. I do not want to quote what has appeared in the papers. I have all the records of Parliament...

MR. SPEAKER : You please listen to me.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let me complete my sentence.

MR. SPEAKER : I will just complete your sentence. I will allow...

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will draw your attention to what happened in 1951 in the Mudgai case. It was discussed by the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : Please allow me to speak.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You can allow him, but let me complete my sentence. These are procedural matters. Mr. Masani had raised a similar point and for 24 minutes he formulated his point of order...*(Interruptions)* I will take only one minute to quote the precedent. Kindly bring the House to order.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a note to be attached to it. There is no problem because nothing comes in my way which is according to the rules.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let me quote the precedent.

MR. SPEAKER : Why should you quote when I have already allowed ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Are you allowing, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I have already allowed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is all right, Sir. I only wanted to strengthen your hands by explaining the procedures of the Committee...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday, you said it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am still saying the same thing. I do not stand against anything which is according to the rules. I think the parliamentary Committee's Report is going to be laid within a day or so, and the day it comes, I will allow...

(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, privilege has nothing to do with the Committee. You are misunderstanding the entire issue. The Committee on Bofors has nothing to do with my privilege. On 20th April, 1987, in a written statement, Mr. Pant said 'No middleman'. The Prime Minister confirmed that. But today we find...*(Interruption.)*

MR. SPEAKER : Look here. That we must settle like this. If anything does not come under that, it has to be decided on its own merits. I will have to find out whether there has been any agent or not. I have to find the facts. I cannot go just by a statement or some press publication. As usual, I do not bar anything. So simple, so straight forward...

(Interruption.)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you please take your seat for a second, Sir ? You have said that the matter is under discussion by a Parliamentary Committee. The Privilege issue has nothing to do with the Parliamentary Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I only say that the privilege issue comes only when any rule has been violated or anything has been done against the privilege of the House. I have to establish that fact, and if that fact is established, then I can proceed against that. That is what it is...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Sir I am on a point of order. As per the Speaker's Direction 68(3), there can be no dissenting note to a Committee's Report...*(Interruptions)*,

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling. I have already allowed it...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why should you do it ? It is all right now...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, I had sent you a notice of an Adjournment Motion which you have been good

enough to reject. I was only drawing your attention to the fact. I am not on Bofors at all...*(Interruptions)*.

I was drawing your attention to a very urgent matter that a former Cabinet Minister, a former Finance Minister, has made a public statement yesterday which flatly contradicts what the Defence Minister had said here about the submarine deal...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing. Does not matter. Statements are made. That will be discussed when the Committee's Report comes...

(Interruption.)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, we want that there should be a proper enquiry into that matter also.

MR. SPEAKER : You can discuss it when the Bofors Committee's Report come...

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It has nothing to do with Bofors, Sir. It is not about the Bofors deal, it is about the West German submarine deal...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, he has quoted what the Prime Minister has said to him. It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know what he has said or what he has not said. How can I be privy to that ? I will have to find out...

(Interruptions)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, I have to make a small submission. You have seen and the whole House has seen through the game of Mr. Dandavate and his friends...*(Interruptions)*. On Bofors matter, the so-called note of dissent is being issued to newspapers. It is being given wide publicity. If at all anybody has to give any note, dissenting or assenting, he has to write to the Speaker. Since the Report is yet to be submitted to the House, I do not think there is any point in Mr. Dandavate raising it on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)*,

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Annual Report and Review on the working of National Cooperative Tobacco Growers Rederation Ltd. Anand, for 1986-87 and statement for delay in laying these papers, Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of National Council for Cooperative Training New Delhi for 1986-87 and statement for delay in laying these papers etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Tobacco Growers Federation Limited, Anand, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Cooperative Tobacco Growers Federation Limited, Anand, for the year 1986-87.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5966/88]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training New Delhi, for the year 1986-87 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the

Government on the working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87.

- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5967/88]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87.

- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5968/88]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87.

(8) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5969/88]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tourism for 1988-89 and Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Act 1987

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism for 1988-89.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5970/88]

(2) A copy of the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1987 (President's Act No. 2 of 1987) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1987 under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5971/88]

Annual Report and Review on the working of National Council for Safety in Mines, Dhanbad for 1986-87 and Statement for delay in laying these Papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Safety in Mines Dhanbad, for the year 1986-87.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Council for Safety in Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 1986-87.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5972/88]

Notifications under Central Excise Rules 1944

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ajit Panja, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944 :

(1) G.S.R. 395(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification Nos. 426/86-Central Excises and 463/86-Central Excises dated the 9th December, 1986 upto 31st March, 1990 and 30th June, 1988 respectively.

(2) G.S.R. 426(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 62/86-Central Excises dated the 10th February, 1986 so as to exempt from the whole of the duty of excise leviable on forgings and forged products if such forgings and forged products are used in the manufacture of such exempted parts and accessories of cycles and cycle-rickshaws as are specified in the notification.

(3) G.S.R. 435(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 177/86-Central Excises, dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to facilitate utilisation of credit of excise duty and countervailing duty paid on inputs for payment of special excise duty of final products manufactured from such inputs under

the MODVAT scheme.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5973/88]

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for 1986-87—Union Government (Revenue Receipts—Directors) and Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for 1986-87—Union Government (Scientific Departments)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, on behalf of of Shri Eduardo Faleiro, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution :

- (1) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1986-87—Union Government (Revenue Receipts—Direct Taxes).
- (2) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1986-87—Union Government (Scientific Department).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5974/88]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperation Ltd. New Delhi for 1986-87 and Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. Bhubaneswar for 1986-87 and two statement for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : Sir, on behalf of Shri R. Prabhu, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Farmer Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Working of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5975/88]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1986-87.

(ii) Annual Report of the Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1986-87 along with Audit Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General theron.

- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5976/88]

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Sir, there should be a discussion on the statement of the Defence Minister on the submarine deal.

MR. SPEAKER : That will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankur) : Sir, the Inquiry Reports which we demanded should have been made available. (Interruptions)

Sir, the Enquiry Reports which we have demanded have not been placed on the Table of this House.

MR. SPEAKER : You demanded it. But there was no assurance given.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You come to me and speak to me with the documents.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is very unfair. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not barred any discussion, Guptaji. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jagdish Tytler.

12.10 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Sixty—Fourth Report and Minutes

[*English*]

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI (Ratnagiri) : I beg to present the Sixty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance—Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division)—Customer Services and Security System in Nationalised Banks and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : LIBERALISATION OF RATES OF FAMILY PENSION AND RETIREMENT-CUM-WITHDRAWAL BENEFITS UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' PENSION SCHEME, 1971

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Hon'ble Members are aware that Government is committed to advancing the welfare of workers. The Prime Minister has supported all measures for improving not only the measures for benefiting workers but also stressed the importance of ensuring that social security measures give a much needed sense of security and confidence to workers against hazards that they face in factory, mine, plantation, or any other industry or establishment.

In furtherance of the Prime Minister's directions and the support the Government

has extended to the coverage and quality of social security. Government is happy to announce upward revision in the rates of family pension to families of workers who are member of the Employees' Family Pension Scheme who may die while in harness, as also improving the retirement-cum-withdrawal benefits to such workers on cessation of membership on retirement on superannuation under their respective conditions of service, resignation etc. On the basis of an actuarial evaluation of the family pension fund, the Central Board of Trustees (C.B.T.) of the Employees Provident Fund has recommended further liberalisation of the rate of family pension and retirement-cum-withdrawal benefits under the Scheme. Against the present entitlement of family pension ranging from Rs. 140 to 630 to the families of those workers who die while being members of the provident fund, the new rates will range between Rs. 225 to Rs. 750.

As for retirement-cum-withdrawal benefits to workers who are at present entitled to benefits ranging from Rs. 110 (for one year's membership) to Rs. 9000 (for 40 year's membership) the enhanced rates of benefits recommended will be on a graded scale. For last pay drawn, upto Rs. 690 the benefits payable will range from Rs. 110 to Rs. 9000 as at present, but for other pay ranges above Rs. 690, the maximum benefits will go up to Rs. 19,825.

Government have decided to accept these recommendations of the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund, as a measure that will go a long way to confer significant benefits to our industrial workers, who have contributed to the rising trend of industrial growth over the last three years and whose contribution to India's economic growth is a matter of pride for us. I hope the House will join me in extending to our workers full support in their endeavours to establish this country as an industrial power, and would wish to extend their appreciation of the peaceful industrial relations climate that has prevailed over the last three years. Both workers and managements have contributed to these achievements and I am sure I carry the House with me in extending thanks to them for the same.

APRIL 25, 1988

I place on the Table of the House a statement giving the details of the revised rates of family pension and retirement-cum-

withdrawal benefits, which will be effective from 1st April, 1988.

Statement giving the details of the revised rates of family pension and retirement-cum-withdrawal benefits under the Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971.

(i) Revised rates of Family Pension

Pay of the Member	Monthly rate of family pension
Below Rs. 300	Rs. 225 (fixed)
Exceeding Rs. 300 but not exceeding Rs. 650	Rs. 275 (fixed)
Exceeding Rs. 650 but not exceeding Rs. 1200	40 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 300 and a maximum of Rs. 450
Exceeding Rs. 1200 but not exceeding Rs. 1600	35 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 450 and a maximum of Rs. 510
Exceeding Rs. 1600	30 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 510 and a maximum of Rs. 750

(ii) Retirement-cum-withdrawal benefit

Last Pay	Benefit available
Pay upto Rs. 690	Rs. 110 (for one years' membership) to. Rs. 9000 (for 40 years' membership)
Pay from Rs. 691 to Rs. 1130	Minimum Rs. 112 to Rs. 181 (for one years' membership). Maximum Rs. 9000 (for 40 years' membership)
Pay from Rs. 1131 to Rs. 2500	Minimum Rs. 182 to Rs. 400 (for one year's membership). Maximum Rs. 9040 to Rs. 19,825 (for 40 year's membership).

12.13 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
SQ. NO. 262 DATED 14.3.1988
REGARDING SPECIAL COURTS
FOR EPF CASES

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI

JAGDISH TYTLER) : It is observed from the verbatim proceedings in respect of the above mentioned question that there has been some inadvertent mix up of figures, while answering the supplementaries. The correct figures are as given below :

"The total number of prosecution cases filed under the E.P.F. Act, which were pending before the Court as on

31.3.1987 was 68,570 and the average number of cases filed worked out to 928 per month. The total number of provident fund claims settled during 1986-87 was 5.49 lakhs."

The inconvenience caused in the matter is regretted.

12.13-1/2 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY
TO SQ. NO. 547 DT. 4.4.1988
REGARDING BONDED
LABOUR

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, in connection with Starred Question No. 547 I had stated on the 4th April 1988 that "I think—I am subject to correction—most of the recommendations which were given by the Committee have been accepted except these two". This was in respect to the M.P., Shri Gurudas Das Gupta's Report.

The correct position has been ascertained. The Report of the Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour was submitted to the Labour Minister on the 12th December 1987. Even though the Annexure of the Report was not available at that time, action was initiated to examine the report and we had also sent copies for suitable action to all the concerned Ministries and State Governments. The Annexure to the Report has been received only on 25.3.1988. Therefore, Government has not so far taken any decision on the recommendations of the Committee.

The inconvenience caused and the delay in the matter is regretted.

Authenticated

New Delhi,
dated the 20th (JAGDISH TYTLER)
April, 1988. Minister of State for
Labour

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS
AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : I beg to move for a leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Indian Penal Code.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need for use of scientific methods for mining of lime stone in Jaisalmer area of Rajasthan

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a deposit of four crore metric tonnes of limestone has been estimated in Sonu area in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. This limestone is of low silica grade and it contains 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent silica content. This limestone is very useful for refining the steel. In November 1986, a working group was organised by the Ministry of Steel and Mines to adopt a strategy to look into the availability, requirements, research and mining of limestone of low silica content.

This working group found the deposits of limestone in Jaisalmer district very useful and has recommended for the use

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

of modern and scientific methods for the mining and development of this limestone for refining steel. At present, the mining of this limestone in Jaisalmer is being done by the industrialists and Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation. The Corporation is doing work mining only in some areas. The Central Government should utilise the services of National Mineral Development Corporation and do mining by scientific methods after preparing proper projects.

This limestone should be used in Bhilai, Bokaro, Durgapur, Rourkela steel plants so that the import of limestone from Japan could be stopped and the country could save foreign exchange.

12.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*].

[*English*]

(ii) **Need for more funds for utilization of water resources in Jhalawar district in Rajasthan**

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : With the continuous disturbance of the cycle of monsoon over a period of years and with the scanty rainfall, the food production in the country has fallen short of the target.

It is very necessary that this shortfall in food production is augmented by increasing irrigation facilities in areas where water is available.

Jhalawar District of Rajasthan is rich in water resources and very small percentage of the available water resources have so far been utilised so much so that the percentage of irrigated area in Jhalawar is even lower than the average of Rajasthan which is a desert state. There is plenty of water available for lift irrigation in several perennial rivers in this district.

Besides that, there are on-going schemes of irrigation on Vilasi and Chappi rivers in Jhalawar which need to be completed on war-footing considering the food requirements of the country. Very small allocation of funds have been

made in the budget on Vilasi and Chappi projects this year with the result that both these projects are likely to be delayed in completion. I, therefore, request the Minister of Water Resources to please release more fund to the State Government for better and early utilisation of water resources available in Jhalawar.

[*Translation*]

(iii) **Need for medical facilities to people living in backward areas**

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every citizen of this country is entitled to the public health facilities but citizens of some places have been deprived of this right, although there is some contribution of every citizen in the annual expenditure of the medical colleges. Due to the non-availability of transport and other facilities for the doctors in many backward parts of country, the doctors do not want to go there. If they are transferred, they get it cancelled on some pretext or the other. In these areas, the people being superstitious use a number of superstitious remedies to cure the diseases which result into untimely death of many patients.

I would like to request the Central Government that the doctors should be given more facilities so that they may come to those backward areas willingly and the people residing there could make use of modern health services.

[*English*]

(iv) **Need for expansion and improvement in Post and Telecommunications facilities**

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : The setting up of National Missions on "Better Communications" and four other subjects is a laudable step. However, in the absence of an integrated approach for the provision of Postal and Telecom facilities, the benefits from the setting up of the Mission on Communications are not likely to be immediate and comprehensive in the rural areas. As the common man especially in the rural areas still depends upon the postal network, it is essential that immediate attention is also paid to the

expansion, upgradation and functioning of Post Offices and the Public Call Offices and Combined Offices (Morse Code) located in them. There is need for streamlining the Mail arrangements in order to eliminate the delay in Dak delivery, speed up the delivery of telegrams and for provision of extensive Morse Code Telegraph Services through a selective upgradation of Branch Post Offices to the status of Departmental Sub-Offices and also by setting up of Departmental Telegraph Offices in district Sub-divisional, Tehsil and Block Headquarters especially in the special category States and other hilly and tribal regions, where the communications need considerable expansion, improvement, upgradation and streamlining.

I, therefore, request the Union Government particularly the Ministry of Communications for setting up of a National Mission for better Postal servicee and also for a National Commission on Telecommunications. I also request for the setting up of a Rural Postal and Telecom. Corporation on the pattern of Rural Electification Corporation which would go a long way in providing these facilities in the country.

[*Translation*]

(v) **Need to check the spread of 'Jal Kumbhi' plant**

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : Now-a-days, this 'Jal Kumbhi' weed has become a destructive agent for environment. This is a world wide problem. It is so vast that the man has failed in all his efforts to cheek it.

As a result of 'Jal Kumbhi' flow of water becomes less by 40 to 95 percent, In paddy fields, seeds do not sprout owing to this and the production is also reduced. This plant is dangerous for the growth of fish and other equatic animals. This weed makes the clear water stinking and increases the amount of carbon dioxide. The number of rats also increase at such places. It absorbs water so quickly that it is called as 'Sokh Samuader Jal'. In the state like Rajasthan, wherever there is water, it is asborbed by this weed. By absorbing water, this weed has made the city of lakes, Udaipur ugly.

So the Ministry of Forest and Environment should pay attention to check the growth of this destructive plant and carry out some experiments to use this plant for useful purposes. This can be used as bio-gas fuel. It can also be used as menure after putrefaction. It can be grown in the polluted waters discharged by factories. So the Government should pay attention to this terrible problem and should try to stop the growth of this green monster and carry out some experiment to make use of it properly.

[*English*]

(vi) **Extension of Passenger train running between Dharmavaram and Guntakal upto Tirupati via Pakala**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : There is a passenger train running between Guntakal and Dharmavaram besides Venkatadri Express. There is another passenger train between Dharmavaram and Pakala. But in both the trains including Venkatadri there is a lot of rush and the travelling public is experiencing great hardship in finding accommodation in the two trains.

In between these two stations, there is a pilgrim centre known as Kadiri and another place known as Kalihiri which is famous for treatment of patients affected by paralysis. People coming to Tirupati prefer to travel via Pakala. In view of the demand from the public, it is requested that the passenger train between Guntakal and Dharmavaram may be extended up to Tirupati via Pakala.

(vii) **National Debate on decentralisation of planning process**

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Ths impact of the development process at the grassroot level has been limited primarily due to non-participation of the people in deciding the local priorities and in controlling the execution of the programme. Development has been reduced to something being done for them on the basis of plans drawn up in districts HQrs. State capitals and executed through a bureaucracy over which they have no control.

Decentralisation of planning and execution is the only solution. This implies not only the formulation of a District plan but

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

a plan for each Gram Panchayat and each Development Block whose objective must be the satisfaction of the minimum needs of the people within available resources and by a target date. The priorities must be decided by the Gram Sabha; the execution must be through the Gram Rajya or Panchayat institutions with control over the utilisation of allocated resources and over the administration/technical personnel.

The Panchayat Plans added together, along with the Block level projects, shall form the Block Plan and similarly Block Plans added together, along with the District level projects, shall form the District Plan. At the district level, there should be a well-coordinated team under the Chief Executive Officer who shall be responsible to the Zila Parishad, an elected body representing the people of the District.

The Prime Minister has given timely support to the idea of district planning. States like West Bengal and Karnataka have also taken some steps. What is needed is a national movement towards effective decentralisation. It is suggested that Government should encourage a National debate so that a viable and uniform pattern of decentralisation of planning and development can emerge out of the sporadic experimentation of the last 40 years.

(viii) Need to provide jobs to the dependents of the employees of Calcutta Port Trust who died prior to 1.1.1985

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Till recently, there was a practice in the Calcutta Port Trust and other Central Government Undertakings that the dependent of the deceased employee who died in harness was given a job on compassionate grounds.

It was decided by the then Chairman, Port Trust, in 1985 that a list of the dependents who were to be given jobs might be compiled and jobs given according to that list. It is now learnt that the said list has been revised by scoring out the names of the dependents whose fathers died prior to 1st January 1985 on the ground that three years have elapsed since the preparation of the list.

The dependents who were in the list have gone on fast unto death for restoring

their names. I request the Government to ensure that no injustice is done to those candidates who are waiting for the jobs for more than three years.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1988-89— Contd

Ministry of Defence—Contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

Shri Chiranjit Lal Sharma may continue.

SHRI CHIRANJIT LAL SHARMA (Karnal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the other day while speaking on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence, I was talking about our military preparedness and the needs of the Defence Ministry, and I will pick up the thread from where I left it the other day.

We must have a perspective plan comprehending the totality of prevailing and futuristic security environment around us and thus be able to look 15 to 20 years hence.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion is taking place in the House on an important matter of security of the country but there are not even 20 members present. So, please let the quorum bell be rung.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the quorum bell be rung. Now there is quorum. Mr. Sharma, you can continue.

SHRI CHIRANJIT LAL SHARMA : This will entail creation of reliable system providing institutional responses, as distinct from situational reactions for withstanding and coping with any crisis facing the region and our national interests.

As a corollary, it will call for a close and constant institutionalised interaction between the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, as that alone will enable our

policy-makers to assess and make a realistic appraisal of any developing situation for taking both short-term and also long-term policy decisions.

I am sorry to say that this kind of co-ordinated approach was somewhat lacking between the Ministries while tackling the situation in Sri Lanka and if I am not wrong, the Ministry of Defence was asked almost at the eleventh hour for despatch of troops for Sri Lanka as Peace keeping Force as provided in the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the use of Defence Forces. I would like to request the Raksha Mantri, to refuse, as far as possible, the availability of Defence Forces for use in aid of the civil power for restoration and maintenance of Law and Order, for their deployment in that role means a deflection from their known primary responsibility. Army should be called upon on rarest of rare occasion, for the large exposure to and otherwise unfamiliar task will lead to dilution in discipline, besides setting in motion a chain reaction of other undesirable side-effects. If it is to combat the natural calamity and that too of beyond the resources of available men and material at the command of the local and civil authorities, by all means, do request the Armed Forces to go to the rescue and provide succour, but certainly not every third day. For the maintenance of law and order, make use of the police and the paramilitary units. But, for God's sake, leave the Armed Forces out of it.

Now, I would like to say a word on recruitment to the Defence Forces. I am glad that the rank and file of the forces are open to the deserving unemployed of our country. But, somehow, the Recruiting Agencies, particularly those responsible for enrolling in the ranks continue to attract hostile criticism of the public. I have no means to go into the veracity and otherwise of the allegations of mal-practices against them. But I would like the system to be fool-proof in its objective of selection and be scrupulously honest and also appear to be such.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is usually said that justice may not be done but it should appear that it is being done. What is actually happening in the matter of recruit-

ment to Services is that corruption is there. Money is demanded; money is paid. People come to us. My junior in the profession recently told me that one of his relations was keen to be recruited in the Army. It simply sent a shuddler in the heart of my coy when my junior told me that Rs. 8000 were demanded from his relations failing which he would not be recruited. And the result was that he could not find a place. It is something which is really very serious.

Also, the fighting units of our Army, like those of the sports, arms and services, should be of mixed character at the most, if so warranted by some overriding consideration of administration or contingencies, while in actual combat, this may be raised on a regional basis but no more on a caste-basis.

Now, a word about Sainik Schools. While going through the Annual Report of the Ministry of Defence, I chanced upon the rather dismal performance of the Sainik Schools and also the diminishing strength of all Cadet Colleges, as many as 18 in number; the Sainik Schools could finally field only 126 Cadets to the NDA in 1986. How is it that they have come to such a sorry state of affairs when they are all structured to be feeder institutions to the NDA? I have also noticed, to my dismay, that the Army Cadet College, an institution engaged in the task of pre-commission training to the serving Other Ranks has a paltry number of just 197 trainees on its rolls. I do not know how the Ministry of Defence will view the performance of Sainik Schools and the very existence of the Army Cadet College which I find as far from being cost-effective. May I request the Raksha Mantri to have a critical look at the functioning of these institutions?

Before I conclude, I want to give some suggestions about our retiring and retired defence personnel. As you are aware, about 55,000 men, including Junior Commissioned Officers, and 900 to 1000 officers retire every year. I strongly feel that the experience and expertise of this disciplined workforce must not be allowed to go unutilised by the Government. They are a national asset and must be harnessed in various constructive activities. The Centre must assume deeper involvement and greater responsibility for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen.

[Shri Chiranjit Lal Sharma]

Passing the buck on to the States, as is being presently done, means, in essence, throwing the child into the bath. I for one deem it as too important an area to be trifled around by a wishy-washy approach. As a matter of fact, it is too colossal a national problem to be left out of a well codified and uniform national policy. Dumping it on State Governments, some of which appear in many a case no better than nonchalant and disinterested bystanders, tantamounts to abdication of responsibility by the Central Government. There are, of course, some notable exceptions like the Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu which have a commendable track record of many a progressive and helpful measures for the welfare of ex-servicemen. May I, therefore, request the Government of India to assume direct and full control of the whole problem, or else, even organisations like Directorate General of Resettlement and Kendriya Sainik Board will continue to feel hamstrung, as till now, for want of proper and full constitutional backing from the Union Government.

Now, a word about Defence expenditure. While voting for the financial allocation for Defence in the Budget, I do appreciate that in view of the hostile ambience around us, when some of our neighbours are engaged in acquiring sophisticated arsenals, there is no escape for us from escalating expenditure on Defence.

I think, none of us would grudge and certainly not grumble about it. Defence preparedness, to my mind, is a premium on our all round security, and I for one, would not agree with those who view it as an unproductive investment, for it is an environment of personnel and material, safety and national security. Only then capital investment in industrial and the rest of other fields of production activities can be expected.

Lastly, in view of enormous length of our coast line and very extensive, exclusive economic zone, I visualise, in not too distant a future, a vastly enlarged responsibility for the Indian Navy. Particularly so, in view of the new and wider dimensions imparted to the security environment of the

region by recent happenings in Sri Lanka and consequently the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. We would, therefore, need a more purposeful Navy now and an ever-vigilant coast guard. We may perhaps have to go in for another aircraft carrier, more submarines and increased amphibian capabilities.

While at this, I may also venture to suggest, we should have a Chief of the Defence Staff, since the successful outcome of any future war will inevitably depend upon complete and well-executed line of action by all the three services.

Therefore, in the event of war, any kind of an *ad hoc* consultative committee, comprising of the representatives of the three services, however well meaning it may be, would be a poor substitute for an institutionalised body headed by the Chief Defence Staff coordinating and directing and not merely overseeing the assigned combat roles of all the three services.

May I request the Defence Minister to give considerable thought to my suggestions?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Jaipal Reddy to speak. Please be very brief.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Lajapur) : Next year, I won't speak on Defence. My time may be given to him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Last year, you had taken lot of time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : MR. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I must express my happiness at the fact that such a senior politician and seasoned administrator as Shri K.C. Pant, is now the Defence Minister. My only regret is he is presiding over the Defence empire when it has been drowned in the deluge of scandals. At any rate, I do not use this time on the question of scandals.

This year's Report starts with an ecstatic reference to the INF Treaty and a platitudinous hope of a new global ambience of peace. It is rather innocuous if not irrelevant for it has no bearing whatsoever on our national security environment.

It is no doubt a welcome and a historic treaty. But we must realise that it deals

exclusively with the problem of lessening of nuclear tension in Europe. It is important to note that not a single major engagement has taken place in Europe since the II World War. The super powers and other major western powers enhance their economic power and test their latest weapon systems by exporting them to Third World countries.

Coming to our own national security environment, our relations with our major neighbours, be it Pakistan or China, have not improved a wee-bit; if at all they have deteriorated sharply. Frequent skirmishes in Siachen Glacier, intermittent tensions on Indo-Pak border, continued unease on Indo-China border only too well illustrate this point.

But in my view, the security environment should not be assessed so much in terms of actual tension or for that matter so much in terms of suspected intentions as in terms of new weapon capabilities and as in terms of induction of new weapon systems.

In this last sense our security environment has deteriorated sharply in the last one year. Our Report does refer to two such major developments *i.e.*, the decision of the United States to grant 4.3 billion dollars economic-cum-military aid to Pakistan and the increased naval activity in the Indian Ocean.

While sharing concern at these two developments, let me refer to one important development which the Report does not care, or may I say does not dare, to mention. That is the emergence of China as a major global exporter of arms.

Before I deal with that aspect in detail, I must hasten to add that I am all for improving our relations with China. In fact, I welcome the initiatives taken by the Government of India in this behalf in the last one year. But the problem that I want to refer to is not our bilateral relations with China; but the size of Chinese military sales and also the Chinese policy of indiscriminate and reckless sale of arms.

China is now the 5th biggest arms exporter in the world. While the sales of both the super powers can be perceived to be linked in some way to their objectives of global diplomacy, one is hard put to find

such a method in the sales of Chinese arms.

For example, China has sold silkworm missiles to Iran. China has also sold such dangerous things as IRBM missiles. CSS-II missiles to Saudi Arabia. They have a range of 2200 miles.

Chinese symbiotic military collaboration with Pakistan across a wide front of weapon system is too well known to need reiteration. There are reliable reports to the effect that China even helped Pakistan to explode the nuclear device of Lopnor. Our traditional approach of looking at defence preparedness from the view-point of bilateral relations only with Pakistan and China is no longer valid. We must also understand that our strategic perspective has acquired a new sort of dimension, that is, increased activity in the Indian Ocean.

India, not because of its ambition but in view of its large size and geographical location, has no option but aim at becoming a major regional power. We can't afford to be too apologetic or hypocritical about our status in the region. We should not keep suffering from what may be called a small power syndrome. In my view, the projection of image of India as a major regional power is essential not only from the view-point of diplomatic clout but also from that of domestic cohesion. A legitimate sense of pride can thus be aroused among all Indians transcending the barriers of creed, race, language and region, I, therefore, do not grudge this allocation of Rs. 13,000 crores for Defence. But I am of the considered view that the money allocated has not been spent in a cost-effective fashion.

As I said two years ago, while speaking on Defence, we have not thought of a comprehensive security doctrine. As a major regional power, facing the most sophisticated weapon system in our neighbourhood, time has arrived for us to embark upon the policy of ultimate deterrence. I do not mean to say that we should compete with super powers. It is neither feasible nor desirable. It may not be possible for us even to compete with China. But the policy of deterrence does not necessarily imply or involve absolute and mechanical equality or parity. For example, China is

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not equal to Soviet Union in absolute military terms. But USSR is in no position to take on China though it is immeasurably stronger than China. It is so because China is also in a position to inflict such a heavy loss on the USSR in any all-out war. I do not wish such a situation. No do I expect such a situation to come about. I was only referring to it in theoretical terms.

Then, Sir, we must remember that all defence doctrines are eventually formulated on the basis of the worst possible scenarios. The question, therefore, is whether we have any implicit theory, let alone an explicit security doctrine. The answer can only be in the negative. As a consequence of lack of any longterm doctrine, we have developed at least four major maladies : (i) gigantism, (ii) ultra-sophistication, (iii) snowballing and never-ending imports, and (iv) untenable self-image of unilateral pacifism. These maladies can be clearly seen in their respective symptoms. I may as well refer to them. The first is leading to neglect of the most essential small items. The second is referring to the failure in optimum utilisation of existing weaponry through retrofitting and modernisation. The third is leading to serious erosion of self-reliance and the fourth is leading to self-paralysing perpetual nuclear dilemma.

Starting with the first malady, may I bring to the notice of the House that we have neglected the procurement of small for the Army for more than a decade ? Our Ishapore rifle has been felt to be too heavy and wasteful with its 7.62 mm calibre. At least, since 1980, our Army has been looking for a rifle with 5.56 mm which is yet to make a final selection and I am told that the selection has been short-listed to Austrian Steyr, German Heckler, Koch G-41 and Soviet AK 74 5.45 mm. I need not speak of CRPF and BSF. Even our Army does not have a rifle to match with that of Chinese AK-47. Our Army suffered a serious handicap in its Sri Lankan operation for want of a proper rifle. LTTE terrorists in Sri Lanka were armed with Chinese rifle and the Punjab terrorists, of course, are using them with devastating effect. Our infantry does not have the night-vision equipment. Our BSF

does not have it and our Army does not have it. Our tanks have night vision equipment and infantry does not have the night vision equipment. We do not realise that the basic thing in Defence is to enhance the fighting capability of the soldier. We appear to betray our class bias even in this vital area. It is evident from the fact that we have lost no time whatsoever in purchasing SAF 9 mm handgun for VVIP security. I agree with the high priority that the Government of India is giving to the Navy. The Indian Ocean is Indian only in name. Apart from the Super Powers, the French and the British Navy are dominating the Indian Ocean. The Chinese as well have also entered the Indian Ocean in a big way. There is a possibility of the Chinese submarine, nuclear powered submarine entering the Indian Ocean. Harpoon, Exocet and Silkworm missiles have been distributed generously and freely among our neighbours. These ominous developments in the Indian Ocean do pose a threat to our off-shore oil platforms, our on-shore installations like atomic power plants and petrochemical complexes. Against this background, I welcome the acquisition of the nuclear powered submarine. I may recall that while speaking on Defence two years back in the House, I have pleaded for nuclear powered submarines. I am of the considered view that we must go in for production of nuclear powered submarine since the Russian submarine, I am told, is only meant for training.

13.00 hrs.

I also welcome another important acquisition, *i.e.* TU-142. We as a Nation are grateful to Soviet Russia for these two important contributions. But, Sir, after having said this I must once again reiterate my serious doubts about the wisdom of developing the light aircraft carriers. They are a typical illustration of our gigantomania. I am not saying that they are useless. After having read some literature, I am of the view that the purpose they serve is not in proportion to the gigantic cost of these carriers. A global super power like the Soviet Union could do without them for three decades. It is only now they are thinking of going in for two super aircraft carriers.

Sir, we must remember that in this age of microelectronics and miniaturisation we require smart tactical weapons like deadly missiles. We know the devastation caused by the Exocet missiles in the Falkland war and to a thing like sheffield. We also know the devastating effect it produced on the U.S. frigate called the "Stark." So, what we need today is not so much blue sea Navy. But If I may coin a phrase, we need blue skies navy.

We do not attend to many elementary things. Our ships do not have as yet anti-missiles missiles or anti-missile guns. A modern frigate like the Godavari class, might cost anywhere around Rs. 200 crores but we must remember that it can be disabled by a missile costing just a few lakhs.

Sir, we should be legitimately proud of Prithvi. It is a good start provided we have the necessary political will to develop our missiles on a full scale. Sir, we should have concentrated on missiles a long time back. Prithvi, as it is now, is not very useful. Its range is only 155 miles. Its precision is not high. Geoffrey Kemp of Carnege Endowment observed that Prithvi with a conventional warhead does not mean much. This again brings us to our inevitable nuclear question. No serious political student today doubts the nuclear weapon capabilities of Pakistan. In addition to this, we all know the close relationship that exists between the Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia has now been supplied with CSS-2 missiles by China. Sir, as I said earlier, their range is 2200 miles. Mr. K. Subramaniam said that each of these missiles would cost 10 to 12 million dollars and if these missiles are to cost or to carry conventional warheads, they do not make any economic sense. Obviously, they are not meant for the conventional warheads. Sir, therefore, India needs to think of this question seriously. It cannot keep the option open perpetually.

Now, the question is, Sir, as I said earlier, China has developed the power of ultimate deterrence. It has done so, in my view, not by buying latest aircraft or by going in for aircraft carriers; but by going in for missile development programme, by going in for production of nuclear-powered submarines and also by stockpiling nuclear warheads. China has developed the

approach of making up through increased quantity for relative lack of modernity or quality. They have gone in for retrofitting Mig-21s. They consequently have F-7s, which could be equal to our jaguars. Now, China and Pakistan together have gone into collaboration for building a new aircraft called F-8 with the cooperation of an American Company, 'Gramman Aerospace. The point I am trying to make is this. We cannot compete with the United States or other Western Powers by going in for latest aircraft. We will have to make the maximum use of whatever aircraft we have, through retrofitting as we have done in the case of all our tanks, T-72s, T-55s, and Vijayanta tanks with the latest equipment.

The other day, I saw a news item that America is now developing a new plane called Stealth B-1, Are you going to abandon the project of light combat aircraft in favour of the new plane? This craze for ultra-sophistication is leading to snowballing imports. Therefore, we must try to consolidate our technology at certain level. You have purchased Mirage-2000. You have got 40 planes for Rs. 1000 crores. You have again gone in for nine planes and you are going in for nine more planes. But you have not utilised the offer of this company to give you license for the manufacturing of this plane. I would like the Government to tell us as to why the Government did not avail of this offer.

One problem is, that we have imposed on ourselves a ceiling in regard to the number of our squadrons. I do not know why we should confine ourselves to this magical number of 35 squadrons. It is this ceiling on the number of squadrons which is forcing us to go in for latest aircraft. If we can go in for more number of squadrons, we should be able to retrofit many of our aircraft which are in service.

I would like to say a word about the DRDO. DRDO has done excellent work and I have a word of praise for the scientists working in that Organisation. We will have to adopt not the method of general, abstract and pure research but that of mission-directed research. We have developed the 'Kanchan' metal, the 'jackal' metal, the fin-stabilised armour piercing disposal sabot, 'Indra-I' and so on and so forth. Therefore, we should be

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able to spare more money for research and we should be producing all these in our own factories.

Sir, in conclusion, our defence inventory encompasses five lakh items. In the West, we have seen automotive industry and arms industry have been largely responsible for the economic growth in those countries. If we are obliged to spend so much on defence, I would like the Government to tell us as to what specific efforts they have made to see that the spin-off of our advance in defence research also flows into the civilian sector. Though we have mouthing this slogan, we have not been able to put this to use properly.

With these few words, I thank you.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me begin my speech by complimenting the Defence Minister, his two very competent Deputies our Armed Forces, Officers and *Jawans* who are doing excellent work and are keeping the morale very high in really a difficult security environment.

When we talk of our security and security environment, we tend to think that security means only the Armed Forces—the standing Army. But there is another aspect to national security and that is the people of the nation—the socio-economic and socio-political stability that prevails at home. These two aspects are very-very important in any conceptualisation of national security system. In National security, armed forces provide a stable environment for a stable socio-economic and socio-political situation and this stability in turn provides muscle power and support to the armed forces who defend our borders and our territory.

Our Defence Minister is known as a man of wisdom, poise and legendary imperturbability. But when I personally look at the security scenario, I have my misgivings. I would like to share with the hon. House certain observations that I have to make on this. Reference has been made to our immediate security environment and our threat perception that is splet our from time to time. Pakistan is mentioned and sometimes in recent months, there are

only muted references to China. I wish and hope that our negotiations—bilateral negotiations—with China will succeed; But any attempt to understand our security system or project our security system, will not be in our interest unless we analyse the profile—Chinese security profile—and its attendance.

About Pakistan, one thing that I would like to ask the Defence Minister is the American role—this has been continuing and it has a purpose behind it—equating India with Pakistan. Americans want us to walk into their trap and unfortunately we are also walking into the trap of Americans. We grudge; our being equated with Pakistan. But in our formulations, we always try to equate overselves wittingly and unwittingly with Pakistan which should be abandoned in the interest of India's security framework, whether immediate or future. It has been said that Pakistan has reached a sort of strategic consensus with America and China as well. What is the meaning of a strategic consensus? Pakistan has certain strategic perceptions and in this strategic perceptions India looms very large on Pakistan horizon.

Americans have their strategic perception in this area, in this region, which Pakistanis share to the hilt. Therefore, Pakistan is now part of an international, a global security system; and this global security system is sustained actively by a Super Power, on the ground that this is in their national interest.

The Afghanistan problem was an episode in a long drama. Arming of Pakistan started with the pacts and military alliances way back in the '50s. Since then, Pakistan has been a proxy State, a client-State of America. Pakistan, in recent years, has acquired huge military profile, and sophistication, I am told, in many areas. Reference has been made in the Annual Report also that in very critical areas, Pakistan has acquired a technological edge over India.

Pakistan's role in Punjab is well known; and what Pakistan is doing and will do, is written on the wall.

*Another aspect of security threat from this side, from Pakistan is the dovetailing of the defence systems of Pakistan with

other friendly countries of America, and of Pakistan as well. For example, Saudi Arabia—a reference has been made to the supply of intermediate range ballistic missile to Saudi Arabia. We have seen, we have learnt at our cost in our cost in previous years, how weapons were supplied to Pakistan by the Saudis at different points. About Turkey, in recent weeks we have seen reports that Turkish companies are involved in acquiring nuclear material and critical components, to be supplied to Pakistan. So, this dovetailing of defence systems of two countries directly receiving military aid from America, *plus* the Chinese nexus which has started supplying weapons on a large scale to Middle East countries and many other countries, has its own angle both military and diplomatic angle. Therefore, in any evaluation, we have to look at this entire range of problems that Pakistan poses today; and Pakistan does this precisely because a Super Power has been active in this area, Pakistan is now part of the American security system, with the central command in the Indian Ocean, or the rapid deployment force in the Persian Gulf. When Pakistan becomes a stooge of an internationally-acknowledged global Power, we have to think basically of the question of our security—whether the preparations that we have made so far are sufficient to meet these challenges that are being posed from across our borders.

Regarding China, we wish to improve relations with China. By all means. Let us not adopt chauvinistic postures in the House or outside, but we have to assess the intentions, as also the capabilities of the Chinese war machine. In Tibet, China has installed strategic nuclear weapons, as also tactical weapons; and in conventional terms, in recent months they have beefed up their preparedness; the level of preparedness at conventional level has gone very high in Tibet. In this situation, we are faced with a grim situation of asymmetry of disequilibrium. Our security system is facing a problem which basically to my mind, is one of disequilibrium of asymmetry in this part.

Sir, if you look at India's strength in terms of machines, equipment or troops, I would like to know the Defence Minister, whether the precise deployable troop strength of India or quality and

level of equipment, what is their party Pakistan, because we cannot afford to pull out our troops and equipment from our northern borders. So, in terms of precise deployable strength, we are more or less on equal terms. We are not ahead of Pakistan, and with equipment, with bolstering up of their strength through different effective sources, I think we will have to have a re-look at the entire picture.

In this context, I would also like to draw the attention of the House to yet another development of far reaching consequence and we can ignore this subtle imperceptible though it may be only at our cost. In recent months, there has been a perceptible change in the geo-strategic and geo-political perceptions of super powers. There have been changes and shifts, and equations are also undergoing changes. I am sure, the majority of the people, people who try to understand the security problems of the country, will agree with me that in the background of these changes, perceptions of super powers, both globally and in our region, this calls for a major re-thinking on our part. Because, the conventional security parameters, in a very stable and known attitude of the super powers to certain regional problems and regional equations they are undergoing changes. This source also contributes to the growing fragility of our security of our security system. Therefore, I would not like to sound rhetorical, but I would urge the Defence Minister and the House to think of a new conceptional framework, and how can we do it? Sir, we all know that the battle field of the next decade or decades after that, would not be the same as the battle field of the past. We are placed in a situation where our defence forces themselves, perhaps, feel that we are face to face with a situation, where the next battle or war if fought at all, will be in a situation of disparity, a situation of asymmetry. Those who will commit aggression on us will be armed with nuclear weapons or higher level of sophisticated weapons. In this situation, the morale of the Indian Defence Forces has to be maintained. What is the solution? What is the way-out? The way-out, to my mind, is of a fresh look at the entire defence security scenario in our neighbourhood and also beyond.

[Prof. K. K. Tewary]

Sir, the Annual Report talks of our concern of what is happening in the Indian Ocean, what is happening in the Persian Gulf besides Pakistan and other problems. We say, our national interests are likely to be adversely affected by what is happening in these two theatres. Now, when you think of your immediate neighbourhood and when you think of your basic interests being in jeopardy in places like the Indian Ocean which is a fact, and Persian Gulf, than you will have to think of your clout, your military clout, whether you are in a position to defend your interests which you perceive are under attack or are being undermined. Therefore, Sir, in this situation the only way out is to exercise the nuclear option because if you look at the security systems of our immediate neighbour, or even the industrialised countries including China which as already emerged as a mini super power, the basic security concept is based on nuclear weapon availability or even usability. They talk of winnable nuclear war and, Sir, in this context we will also have to think of the doctrinal and technological evolution in this field. Unless India has a fresh look at its conceptual security frame and tries to figure out the national interests and aspirations which are to be safeguarded and protected, I think we will be trying to evade a challenge which is staring us in the face.

When there is a situation like this where you are threatened not only by a small neighbour, but when the neighbour, but when the neighbour happens to be armed to the teeth and acting at the behest of the global actor, then you will have to prepare yourself not only to face that neighbour but also to talk into account of to confront, cope with the different obvious linkages of that source of trouble. If you don't do it, you are facing the threat of nuclear imperialism all around your border, and in this nuclear imperialism coercive diplomacy and nuclear blackmail come hand in hand, Sir, I would like to submit that India is not a micro nation, India with thousands of kilometres of land borders, thousands of kilometres of coastline and thousands of kilometres of exclusive economic zone, we will have to be in a position to defend ourselves effecti-

vely and, in relation to what is happening around us, and I would like to say in this context that there are effects of coercive diplomacy, we feel inhibited in our reaction to the threat posed by Pakistan through Chinese support. What happened? A couple of months ago brass tracks exercises were undertaken well within the Indian boundary and this was described as a routine exercise by the Indian Defence Force of different wings put together and perhaps it was also to test the effectiveness of the newly acquired weapons and also as part of the exercises that keep going. We heard of a 'forward policy' in Arunachal region. A sovereign nation of India's size and of India's clout was undertaking a regular exercise, not posing any threat to any neighbouring country. We were faced with nibbling of a part of our territory by a neighbouring country which sits over thousands of kilometres of our territory. So, we had a certain concept called 'forward policy' in Arunachal. But equally suddenly, they had to be called off. Was it under any pressure? Was it under any blackmail? For this reason, I am saying that even our legitimate security perceptions are being distorted and we are getting inhibited. So, this unilateralism, we have had enough. We have had enough of nuclear abstinence and celibacy. If India's security interest has to be safeguarded, India has no option except to exercise its nuclear option and I say with full sense of responsibility on the floor of the House that I do not advocate nuclear arms race. I am merely advocating a position of sufficient nuclear muscle in the prevailing situation globally and regionally. Whatever happens to negotiations whether it is INF or anything else, the world will have security problems and nuclear power is going to be the rock-bottom of any major effective security system of any major country.

In this context, the national power concept is also important. The power of a nation, its power projection, is important. Destiny has assigned a certain role to India, the size of India, its potential, its geo-strategic location and we must be fully aware of this destiny.

Only recently, Mr. Henry Kissinger talked of South-East Asia and South Asia. In that context, he talked of Japan. It is a fact that Japan is an economic super

power. China is super-power in the making with India as effective competitor. In this background, when I talk of national power, I do not only talk of military muscle, I talk of economic strength and unity of the country. In my humble opinion India is a country which is under assault and attack. Forces of destabilisation are abroad. For sheer survival and unity of this country, it is essential that India acquires strong military muscle. A strong India, united India with sufficient projection of its power both economic and military which is her inherent destiny, that India alone will be able to get over the problems of divisiveness, of secessionism, of internal violence and also face the subversive forces inside the country. In this context, I would also like to say one or two words about the NPT. That is, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. I keep hearing of all kinds of stories about our reaction to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty although we admire our Prime Minister who clearly said; "There is no question of India signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and we maintain it." Non-Proliferation Treaty is a Treaty of disarming the unarmed. Those who do not possess nuclear weapons, they are asked to sign this Non-Proliferation Treaty whereas those who are proliferating nuclear weapons, weapons of death and destruction—and are now invading the outer Space with their weapon systems— they are trying to build space stations in the outer space. These countries talk of India and other countries signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Therefore Sir, in the end, I would once again like to reiterate about India's power projections, legitimate power projections because the world is moving fast from bipolarity to multi-polarity. India has a destiny to be a centre of this polarity and this strength. Unless India acquires nuclear muscle and nuclear weapons, it will be difficult. (*Interruption.*) I will not dilate on this. We will take it up some other time. But certain people opposed nuclear weapons on the ground that India cannot afford it and all our economic programmes would be hampered. Let us not forget that before 1962, the same apologists used to say that India cannot acquire weapons to match China, cannot go in for modernisation and all the economic programmes will have to be suspended. But once attacked in 1962, after that we have under-

taken massive modernisation programmes of our Armed Forces. No economic programme has ever suffered. In terms of cost-effectiveness also, keeping in view the escalation of prices and devaluation of the rupee, acquisition of nuclear weapons or nuclear capability will be less costly. It will not be costlier than the acquisition of conventional weapons. Therefore, in the end, I would like to say that we should have a fresh look at the entire security environment. We should not become obsessed with the Sub-Continent's security system only although Sub-Continent is important for us. We have been too much Sub-Continent's centric. Let us go beyond this also. For the India's nuclear option, this is the right time to exercise India's nuclear option and go in for nuclear power. That will strengthen our Armed Forces, give them sufficient confidence because on all sides, we are surrounded. Our immediate distant neighbour America is in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan has already acquired the nuclear bomb. China is armed not only with tactical weapons and nuclear weapons but also with strategic nuclear weapons. Forces of disintegration of the country are raising their ugly heads by the weapons supplied by all sources. In this broad perspective, I think India's security concept—I emphasise on security concept—has to undergo a change. We have to have a more comprehensive strategic vision of India for which the country is looking to the Government and to this House.

With these words, I thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev will intervene now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while intervening in this debate, I would like to thank the hon. Members who have contributed to this debate. Each and everyone has given words of praise for our Armed Forces. They have supported us. Not only they supported us but they have urged that Government should provide more funds for the Defence Forces.

While participating in the debate, hon. Members have discussed about Siachen border. They have discussed about the

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

IPKF in Sri Lanka and they have discussed about the Indo-China border relationship. My friend, Prof. K K. Tewary, has just now discussed about lethal weapons. All these were discussed in this House in the past also. Mr. Indrajit Gupta mentioned about blue water naval strategy. My senior colleague, Shri K.C. Pant, when he replies, will deal with all these problems.

First I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the problem about ex-servicemen which has been raised by Shri Sparrow. Shri Ajay Mushran and some others. Yearly, about 50 to 55 thousand ex-servicemen are retiring and they expect some resettlement throughout the whole country. Government is well aware that this is one area where special care has to be taken, and keeping that in view, a concerted effort is always made in cooperation with the State Governments to see that resettlement of ex-servicemen is done. Some hon. Members have dealt with reservation of jobs, more in the public sector, in nationalised banks and others. This reservation already exists there. I think it will be very difficult to increase the ratio, but in order to see that the burden does not always fall on public sector undertakings or on State Governments, the Ministry has started certain schemes—SEMTEX-I which is with the Industrial Development Bank as well as SEMTEX-II which is being done with NABARD. By and large, we are getting good response from the ex-servicemen, and we will continue these efforts in a more vigorous way to see that the problem of ex-servicemen is solved. As I said, it needs the total cooperation and collective efforts between the State Governments and the Central Government.

Shri Sparrow and Shri Ajay Mushran have raised a question about the recommendation of the high-powered Committee. The recommendation of the high-powered Committee for 'one rank one pension' was not accepted by the Fourth Pay Commission and it is now before the Supreme Court. Once the Supreme Court takes a decision, we shall formulate action on it. At this stage it is very difficult for us to comment anything on this.

Shri Sparrow has also mentioned about reservation. At present in the Central Government the reservation for jobs is ten per cent for Group 'C' and 20 per cent for Group 'D'; in public sector undertakings and nationalised banks it is 14½ per cent and 24-1/2 per cent. In fact, there was a stage when these percentages of reservations were not utilised. After the high-powered Committee had submitted their recommendation, a special cell has been started in our Department under an officer of the rank of Additional Secretary. After that, we are happy to see that the percentage of these reserved seats which in the past was only 41 per cent in 1984 has gone up 64.5% in 1986. I do not have the figure for the current year, but I have been told that this has further improved. As I said, after reservation of for ex-servicemen there is always a backlog of 16 to 20 thousand. Government is considering various other schemes and we shall continue our efforts to see that our ex-servicemen are rehabilitated properly.

As regards the Parliamentary Committee which has been mentioned by some Members, yes, there was a recommendation, but it has not been accepted nor has it been rejected. We have started certain schemes and started implementation of these recommendations numbering 68; except six, we have accepted the other ones. Once these recommendations are implemented and once we have the feed-back, then we would like to consider whether a Parliamentary Committee is at all necessary. But we can say this much that, at this stage, the Government has not rejected nor accepted that formulation or recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee.

Regarding the problem of disabled war veterans, as mentioned by Shri Indrajit Gupta, we will examine what are the concessions which have been withdrawn. Educational concessions are available to their children. But there appear to be problems at State and UT Administration level in availaing them. This will be taken up by our Department. We will also examine the possibilities of opening more artificial limb centres, which Mr. Indrajit Gupta has suggested. Unfortunately, he is sleeping now. Presently, marriage after retirement or invalidment is not recognised

for family pension Department of Pensions has agreed to recognise marriage after retirement, invalidment for purpose of family pension but only prospectively. However, we will take up the matter as to whether war disable can be treated as a separate class to provide for recognition of marriages after retirement, invalidment retrospectively. Other problems put forward by Mr. Indrajit Gupta about this facility of limb. I can say, at present whatever we have, it is sufficient. But if it is necessary in future, we shall definitely increase the capacity because at present whatever facility we have, there is no backlog for giving that treatment. But I agree with you, in course of time, if it is necessary, we shall not hesitate to increase that capacity. It is a good suggestion and we will consider it.

Shri Chiranjit Lal Sharma mentioned about Sainik Schools. Sainik Schools are the joint responsibility of the States and the Centre. Fifty ratio is maintained. There are 18 Sainik Schools in the country and we have from the Sainik Schools, 204 candidates in the NDA. If you take percentage-wise, it is 32 per cent. I do not think, this is bad. There was a stage when boys never went to the NDA from the Sainik Schools. Now we are considering how it can be improved and we shall continue it.

A mention has been made that army should not be deployed time and again for civilian aids. It is always the policy of the Government, so also of the Defence Ministry that we never encourage it unless it is dire necessary. The army is not only helping the civilian administration when they are called for in the natural calamities and combating terrorist activities in various parts of the country, army has played a very good role. They have maintained and army must maintain good relations with civilian population. Of late, unfortunately, there are some criticisms when army has been deployed in Manipur and Tripura. And I can tell this that army has never involved itself in any other activities other than for what they have been assigned for, that is, countering the insurgency. We have seen that insurgency in Nagaland has been stopped. We have seen that after the army was inducted in Tripura, peace has not only come, but the killings have been

stopped. This is a good sign. Army has been assigned with the particular job and they are doing it. Not only that. When army goes to different remote areas, they take certain steps to develop better contact with the people. In Tripura, I myself, have seen that army has taken medical team along with their combat team and they have given medical aid to the people not only to their children but they have organised various activities there through distribution of food-stuffs among the children and they have given nourishing food to the children also. It will be wrong to say that some political parties are trying to say something against the army I would like to put on record that there is not truth in it. In Mizoram, in North-Eastern region, army has always proved that whatever, assignment has been given to them, they have performed it with sincerity and we always believe that army must have a good relations with the public and we will continue to do so.

About the mention of the Defence preparedness, as I said, my senior colleague will deal with it.

I would like to say that we have an organisation under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister—the Border Roads Organisation. It was formed in 1960. This Organisation has a perspective plan for 15 years. They go in the remotest area where it is very difficult for maintaining the communication. They are doing very good work and they will continue to do good work. This is basically necessary to give easy access to our armed forces in the border areas along with Pakistan and China as well as in remote areas where there is security hazard. The Border Roads Organisation has done very well and I shall have to put on record my thanks to the Border Roads Organisation.

The Armed Forces are there to protect the borders of our country. But at the same time we must prepare our civilian population also. Our Government has basically taken steps to prepare a citizens force which is the Territorial Army. We are happy that this Territorial Army, when they have been called for, has done a good job. We have seen that the Terri-

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

torial Army has played a very important role when there was a strike in the Railways.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :
Their main job is to break strikes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Not to break strikes; but to help the civilian population when they are the victims of the strike. We are not concerned how and when the strike has to be defused. We are called for to give service when the public suffer. We take this responsibility. We have no reasons to interfere whether the strike is legitimate or not. We as Defence Ministry do not interfere in that.

As regards NCC, this is yet another area where we have taken special care to build up our future generation. Not only that now we have got Naval Training and Air Force training in the NCC and our experience is that the youths of our country who have participated in the NCC are coming in the Army and also are getting prepared for it. In difficult times also their services can also be utilised.

Some Members while participating in the debate have mentioned about pensions. The Prime Minister recently in one of the meetings has given direction to our Ministry that not only the pension should be disbursed promptly, it should be seen that if we can, give it on the day a man retires. A separate department is there, but at present the Department has taken steps to see that Pension Adalats are held all over the country. Recently in Delhi we have held a Pension Adalat which was attended to by our Cabinet Minister. We have decided to have more Adalats all over the country. It will be our endeavour to see that for no reasons of theirs, pensions are not held up. Of course, there are certain stages where difficulty arises. Definitely we will try to see that pensions are paid as immediately as possible.

Some Members have mentioned about the payment of acquisition cost to the civilians when lands are acquired by the Department. It is being done with the help of the State Government. It is the

State Government, through their procedures, identify the areas and fix up the cost of the land. Once it is fixed up, if it is not contested by the recipient, we make it a point to give. But in certain cases when the cost is fixed up by the Local Administration, they are contested by the recipients and that makes things a bit difficult.

The Hon. Member from Kashmir has raised this point. I have checked up. There are two such cases pending before the Administration and both these cases are before the legal courts. Unless the court decides it will be difficult for us to settle these issues.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON (Arunachal West) : There are a few cases of such land problem in my constituency also mainly in Dirang Valley in West Kameng District and Tawang District.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, individual cases cannot be answered now. But I will request the hon. Member to write to me. I assure him that it will be examined and it will be solved.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : I have written, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He will reply. Don't worry.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Then, I will also reply.

Before I conclude, I would like to put on record our tribute to the three armed forces of our country. Our army is no less than any army in the world. They have always risen to the occasion and stood for whatever cause they have been asked to stand. We have in the past, seen that our army has acted to the satisfaction of our nation while protecting our borders, while giving service to the civilian population. I take this opportunity to put on record our appreciation for the three armed forces.

I also put on record the magnificent work that our army is doing in Sri Lanka in implementing the accord. This is a special assignment for the army. The army has done a job under very difficult circumstances. But I take this opportunity to convey my thanks and also give

my condolence to those jawans or officers who have been killed or injured in the Sri Lanka operation. Our full sympathies are with them. The Government have taken some special steps to see that special care is taken for all those who are involved in Sri Lanka, either killed or injured and we will continue to do so.

In Siachin border also, our army is working in very difficult conditions. The climatic conditions and the terrain are quite difficult. The equipment, which is necessary, is not to the satisfaction. Even then, our jawans have done a wonderful job. Our Cabinet Minister has recently visited. He has explained and told us the circumstances in which our jawans are working in Siachin.

As I said, the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Air Force have always played their role effectively and will continue to do so. I also convey my thanks to all Members who have expressed their happiness about the Indian defence forces. With these words, I conclude.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, I rise to support the demands presented by the Ministry of Defence. I also appreciate the report placed before us. A perception of the threats to our country from across the borders has been highlighted. Some Members have pleaded for acquiring the nuclear missiles. I would plead with the Ministry of Defence to weigh this option very carefully before taking any decision in this regard. While, on the one hand, we ourselves are propagating the reduction in the arms, would it not look ironical that we ourselves plead for adding to the nuclear arsenal? Therefore a very clear review of the options involved and examination of the issues therein is required before any final decision can be taken. But whatever it is, the defence and security of the country has been paramount and so has to be our commitment to peace and disarmament which form the cornerstones of our foreign policy.

13.59 hrs.

[**SHRI ZAINUL BASHER in the Chair.**]

Generally, when Members speak on the grants of Ministry of Defence, the

role of the armed forces comes in for commendation and its appreciation from all sides of the House. But one section of the Defence Ministry is always left out that is, the persons who actually plan in the civilians sector of our defence planning. I mean, the administration, the secretary, the team of his officers, additional secretaries and various other civilians, engineers, doctors etc. who contribute not a little bit but a major chunk to the evolution of defence planning and who are the brain behind the arm that the army shows to the country and the arm that is so strong for the other countries, who are neighbouring our country.

14.00 hrs.

So, I would like to appreciate the services rendered by our officers who are not in the Armed Forces but who are in the Indian Administrative Service or engineers, doctors, teachers or who are manning our Defence Ministry from the civilian side, who play an important role. Let us appreciate the good work that they have done because whenever the Army communicates to them any change in the security environment, any change in the perception of a threat, it is these civilian group of our friends in the Defence Ministry who have to take cognisance of this and make the plan to meet the new situation in consultation with the Army. This is not to minimise the role played by the Armed Forces. Their role is very important, significant and good for the future of the country ensuring the unity of the country and its security on all hands. Sir, in the year under review, considerable improvement seems to have taken place in the upgradation of our various systems including our war machines and ammunition. I would particularly refer to the two highlights which have been referred to in this Report. The first is that an indigenously assembled T-72 M-110 Tank was rolled out in January 1988. Its importance is that this is the first indigenously assembled tank. Therefore, this is a good development in the country. Similarly, who have the first infantry combat vehicle Sarat which was handed over to the Chief of the Army Staff by the Minister of Defence in August 1987. These are the two highlights which show that considerable improvement has taken place in the equipment, in the apparatus, in the ammunition and in the

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

various other types of mechanisms for forming a part of the defence preparedness. I am not convinced by the arguments by the Minister of State, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev regarding neither accepting nor rejecting the recommendation of the High Level Committee for the welfare of the ex-service men, for creation or setting up of a Parliamentary Committee. If you examine the composition of the High Level Committee, it was headed by the then Minister of State for Defence Shri K.P. Singh Deo. It had the Defence officers, the officers of the Armed Forces, officers from the Ministry of Finance and six members of Parliament. It also had Ministers representing the various States across the country. Since, I was one of the Members of this Committee, I need not praise the Committee but I could surely say that this recommendation was the result of a considerable debate within the Committee and that the Committee came to the conclusion was itself a major step because the Committee felt that the ex-service men are in a peculiar situation. They are the employees of the Central Government but when they retire they are in the hands of the State Governments for their various benefits. It is not the duty of the Parliament to oversee that those brave sons of the soil who risk their lives for the defence of the country, for the security of the country, for the unity of the country also deserve the scrutiny from the Parliamentary Committee as to whether the measures have been implemented or not? It is not enough that you roll out schemes after schemes, that you publish in the newspapers, and give advertisements that you have started doing something for the ex-servicemen. What is more important is that these are implemented in reality and that there is no substitute unless Parliamentary security is available and is able to ensure the welfare of these people who are disciplined in their life while they are in uniform and by and large continue to be disciplined even after that and who also come to parliamentary forces justice has not been done to them. So, I would plead with the Ministry of Defence that it is high time that an important decision like this is taken because the High Level Committee presented the report to the

Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, just four days before her assassination on 27th October 1984 and the Report contained this recommendation. It is now roughly going to be 4 years add few months and the jawans in the armed forces and ex-servicemen outside expect a quick decision on this. There are some other things that we would like to highlight for the welfare of ex-servicemen. Though 6 States have done something and the States have been mentioned—my State H.P. also happens to be one of the States—yet much more seems to be still in the range of possibility of being done. The process of revitalisation of the Zila Sainik Board and the Rajya Sainik Board was undergone rather rapidly. But it is unfortunate even now to know that some of these Zila Sainik Board do not have the transport. They suffer in various other handicaps and the attitude of the States representation, may be in the Congress or non-Congress State, is that of indifference; is that of some sort of a generous benefactor who is going to give something to them out of his own pity. It is not fair. Therefore, I would plead “please revitalise your Rajya and Zila Sainik Board”. It is not enough that a Governor is there to look after the interest. No. Actually in the field, in the district, in the block, in the sub-division, somebody should be there to look after them. Therefore, an officer of a high status, I would plead that an IAS officer, should be in charge of administration work in these Zila Sainik Boards and that as secretary he should report to the Central Government as well as to the State Government. The Boards should be headed by an eminent Ex serviceman of the district.

Sir, I would also place that adequate infrastructure, in the form of transport, secretarial facilities also should be provided to the Zila Sainik Board so that they are able to give justice to the task which they are called upon to do.

Sir, various other schemes like the SEMFEX have been introduced and I congratulate the Ministry for introducing these schemes. The SEMFEX-II has been introduced w.e.f. January 1988 and SEMFEX-I was introduced last year. Similarly schemes preparing the ex-servicemen for their rehabilitation (PEXEM) are also launched and some districts have been

included. These are all good schemes. But what happens in the ground. A man while in uniform, got the salute, has to run from one officer to another and still he is unable to get the quick relief. So, I would plead for the streamlining of this procedure.

I would now come to an ordnance factory. A team from the Ministry of Defence went to Himachal Pradesh and visited some sites and also examined the possibilities but no decision has been taken so far. This is not a very happy picture because people expect that a quick decision should be taken. There are 35 Ordnance factories in the country and Himachal Pradesh has continued to play a significant role in the armed forces and many people have lost their lives. More than 1000 people died while defending the mother land from Himachal Pradesh, in three ways that accrued after independence. Some have died in the Sri Lanka operation, as an IPKF force members. We are proud of the role that we have played there. We are proud of the fact that sons of our own State jawans have laid down their lives for defending the country here and there. So, we expect that justice would be done in the matter of various schemes and especially in the matter of allotment of an ordnance factory to the State of Himachal Pradesh and setting up Military Stations of Hamirpur and Una. Ordnance factories have done a good work and I am happy to learn from the report that per average value of production per employee has increased from Rs. 46,700 in 1982-83 to Rs. 87,800 in 1986-87. This is a good commendation for the workers there and for the good management. But I would also plead that this discrimination against Himachal Pradesh should be ended and we should be given one ordnance factory for which necessary survey has been done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 13 minutes.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : I will take only one minute more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have rung the bell but you are still going on. It is not good. How long shall I wait for you ?

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Separate demands for the ordnance

factories has been opened for better budgeting and I welcome this initiative. I would plead that in order to show a token appreciation of the gallantry shown by our ex-servicemen when they were in the Armed Forces, villages of all the Mahavir Chakra winners, and Paramveer Chakra winners and even the Victoria Cross winners should be declared, developed and adopted as modern villages by our Central Government in consultation with the State Government. That would be giving a token appreciation of their bravery while serving the country.

The threats to our country are great. But the Armed Forces have played a significant role and I appreciate the role played by them in Sri Lanka in warding off the designs of the Super Powers in creating a ring of threat around our borders. When our soldiers have laid down their lives for our country, it is our duty to pay tribute to their bravery and gallantry and also sympathise with the families of those who have laid down their lives in the defence of our country. With these words, I appreciate the good work done by the Ministry of Defence. I appreciate especially the vision and wisdom of the Minister of Defence, Shri K.C. Pant, who has the entire country in view and the future of the country is safe in the hands of the Armed Forces. We pay tribute to their valour and the sacrifice that they made. I would also appreciate the role played by them in the civilian operations. It is not only in war times that they are called upon to defend the country from threats across the borders, but they also come to the assistance of the nation, either at the centre or in a State, in times of risk, in times of distress and in times of despair. I must say a good word for their role in the management of the affairs of the country and in coming to the rescue and help of the nation in times of difficulty. Their role in peace is as commendable as their role in war.

With these words, I commend the Report of the Defence Ministry and their demands for grants.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North) : I thank you on behalf of the DMK Party for giving me this opportunity to speak.

As far as the demands for grants of the Ministry of Defence Ministry are concerned, I feel that enough material is not provided.

[Shri N. V. N. Somu]

Government always feels that furnishing such material might affect their secret system and this prevents the elected members to do their duty effectively and more efficiently. Not only that, this emboldens the bureaucrats to gain time, which in turn paves the way for corruption. They also get a feeling that there is nobody to question them or their misdeeds. I request the hon. Minister to furnish more material so that the omissions and commissions of the Ministry can be discussed here and corrected.

Every year, the budget allocation for defence is going on increasing. If one has to bring down the national debt which is already swelling to nearly two lakh crores or so, we have to give a serious thought to bring down the defence expenditure.

Sir, right from the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Panchashheel is the main philosophy of India. As we are more and more interested in propagating peace and disarmament, and as we are taking a keen interest in the Non-aligned Movement, there is even more justification in curtailing our defence expenses to the minimum possible.

We are second to none in the country when it comes to upholding the unity and integrity of India. When there was a war between India and Pakistan during the Bangladesh crisis, I must proudly say that our Dr. Karunanidhi was the one and the only Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who donated Rs. 6 crores to Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister at a mammoth public meeting in the Island Grounds of Madras.

It is really very unfortunate that there is a sudden increase of nearly Rs. 1000 crores in this year's Defence Budget. This is mainly because we are wasting about Rs. 10 crores a day in some foreign soil, namely for the IPKF operations in Sri Lanka, just to wipe out our Tamil race. After wiping out the Tamil race, with whom are you going on a honeymoon? I request the Government to stop the killings and to start negotiations immediately.

A very alarming situation is created in Pakistani border area. The Defence Secretary of the USA has not paid any heed to

our Prime Minister's request to stop the arms supply to Pakistan which is already building up a nuclear power. I feel that there is no necessity for Pakistan to acquire arms any more from foreign countries because the USSR has withdrawn itself from Afghanistan, nearly after nine years. I request the Defence Minister to prevail upon the United States on this particular point and ask them to stop forthwith the supply of arms and other weapons to Pakistan because it endangers the security of our nation. In this connection, I want to bring it to the notice of the Minister that nowhere in the world was a guerrilla warfare defeated.

Even after fifteen years of struggle with the latest weapons, the Americans could not succeed in Vietnam. In the Arlington Cemetery, there are graves of thousands of unknown soldiers, who lost their lives in Vietnam.

I would say that this Government should learn lessons from USA and USSR and stop killing the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

I would also say that it is enough that you have burnt your fingers there and made the innocent Jawans to give up their lives, in addition to thousands of Tamilians and Eelam Liberation Forces.

Please think of Arlington Cemetery and say a good-bye to the battle of Sri Lanka,

I would like to remind you here as to what had happened in Uganda when Idi Amin was the Head of the country. When the Gujaratis were harassed, the then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai sent a special Aircraft and brought them safely with all their belongings.

In Fiji Island, when the Indians got affected, the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi took extra care by bringing our people back to the country.

When the Lieutenant of P.L.O. Leader Abu Jihad died, the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi paid his condolences.

When Bobby Sands of Ireland died of hunger strike in the Prison of Ireland against the British regime, Mrs. Gandhi, the then Prime Minister offered her condolences. Before he died, she had also requested the British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher to

release him from the prison. The same yard-stick is not applied in the case of Tamils because they are born as Tamils.

Mr. Ganapathy died recently after thirtyone days' hunger strike. Mr. Johnny, the Lieutenant of Prabhakaran was taken in the Helicopter of Indian Army for having a dialogue with Prabhakaran. He was shot and killed by the IPKF in the mid way. In all these instances, neither the Prime Minister nor the External Affairs Minister or the Defence Minister had paid a word of condolence. It is not that Mr. Arafat is holding roses and Prabhakaran is holding bullets.

Mr. Subramaniam Swamy had appealed to the Government that he is going to undertake a boat journey in the month of May to Kachchativu. It is a part and parcel of India. It should be brought back and included in the map of India.

In Ordnance Factories, you have reduced the manpower to the extent of 5000. In spite of that the production had increased from Rs. 1356 crores to Rs. 1598 crores. For this, the workers should be appreciated.

With regard to defence public sector undertakings the Bharat Electronics Limited has increased its production steadiiy.

In 1985-86, it was Rs. 226.1 crores. In 1986-87, it was Rs. 326.91 crores. And in 1987-88 it went upto Rs. 371.55 crores. There is a good increase in production.

Its profits had also increased considerably over the years. In 1985-86, it was Rs. 25.45 crores. In 1986-87, it was Rs. 30.32 crores. And in 1987-88, it went upto Rs. 36.20 crores. So, the workers of the BEL should be adequately rewarded. There are pressing problems for the workers with regard to their pay, confirmation and promotions. The workers—because of whom the company is earning profits—should be encouraged. There is an establishment of BEL in Madras and this should be made an independent and full-fledged unit.

The workers of the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi, Tamil Nadu, went on a long strike. It continued for a year. They wanted their pay to be protected. I request the Minister to consider the demands of the Defence Production workers sympathetically because, they are the backbone of our coun-

try. They should be given due encouragement.

The Central Vehicle Depot in Avadi, Tamil Nadu also should be properly nurtured. Slowly, its production unit is being shifted to North India. Instead of strengthening the existing units, the shifting of important production units to Northern India is highly deplorable. The workers are afraid that by these tactics the production units in Tamil Nadu may be closed and they will be rendered jobless.

I request you to consider this thing urgently and favourably.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR (Kutch) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. I went to take this opportunity to submit a few points. Sir, India is a vast country and the intentions of our neighbour countries do not seem to be good. For this reason, the responsibilities of the Ministry of Defence have enhanced. India is the country of Lord Budha and Mahtma Gandhi. It follows the path of non-violence and turth. But whenever our country has been threatened, our people have never shirked their responsibility. Shastras say that Lord Rama and Lord Krishna tried to avoid war and adopted the course of compromise, but these compromises have failed in every century. The agreements concluded by Lord Rama and agreements concluded by Lord Krishna proved failure and they had to fight war.

Late Prime Ministers Shri Nehru, Shri Shastri and Shrimati Indira Gandhi had good relations with the neighbouring countries, but in spite of that we had war with China in 1962, and with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971. Shri Sparrow has fought with Pakistan in the Runn of Kutch and in Kashmir. Shri Sparrow has explained all this in detail. I don't want to repeat all the details as to how much money had been spent on prisoners of war after Niazi's surrender but I would like to submit that Late Shrimati Gandhi pardoned them, which is an unique example. Those who are brave have the right to forgive. As there is a Shaloka in Sanskrit—"Khyma Veerasya Bhushnam;" According to our

[Shrimati Usha Thakkar]

history, Prithiviraj Chauhan pardoned Shahbuddin Gauri 7 times, but later Shahbuddin Gauri blinded Prithiviraj Chauhan. Our Shrimati Indira Gandhi was a brave and forgiving lady, but she was killed. So we should remain vigilant. India is great nation. But our neighbour countries make their relations strained with their neighbours under the influence of big powers. But this should not be done. There is a saying in Gujarati—"Pahlo Rakho Parosi" that means that neighbour is our first relative because he is the one who helps in case of some problem. May wise council prevail on them.

Sir, I congratulate the Ministry of Defence on strengthening Army, Navy and Air force. Pakistan has premitted America to set up a military base in Makran sea shore. Sir, my constituency falls in the Kutch range of the sea-shore. If this is right, then from the strategic point of view, Kutch becomes a very sensitive area. Institution like S.S.B. has been put to work in Kutch by the Ministry of Defence. The culture of Sindh and Kutch are almost same. Sindhi people of Pakistan love the people of Kutch very much, but the rules of Pakistan create Problems. Some years ago, on the sea-shore of Kutch near chhachi village, silver valued Rs. 3.5 crores had been seized while being smuggled. So steps should taken to check the smuggling of heroine and arms also. Kutch is an international border and one can cross the border on foot as well as by sea. I do not want to repeat, as I have already written to the Minister of External Affairs to keep coastal gaurds on the sea-shore and we should be vigilant if the coastal line is determined near the Zakho Port, because there is a place called Sanwana Pir and that place is near the Koteswar temple. People of both communities visit that place. But that place is situated a bit inside the sea, so one has to go there on foot. This area falls in Indian territory. The same thing must not happen as it happened earlier in Chharbet.

The 110 km long line has been laid in Bhuj-Nalia from the security point of view. I thank you for it. But I want to get one point clarified and I have written a letter also to you in this regard. But since, I

have got the opportunity today, I would like to submit that the smugglers have constructed a metalled road in Abdasa Taluka. This has been published in the newspapers at the behest of the Opposition. I toured 410 kms. of that area and I was accompanied by the area M.L.A., the Chief of the Zila Parishad, the President of the Taluka Panchayat etc. But we did not find any such road there. When I inquired about it from the D.S.P. of Kutch district, I was told that no such road has been constructed in that area. When such news items are published, doubts are raised in the minds of the people. Hence, Sir, I want to request the hon. Minister through you that he may kindly enlighten us in this regard.

The road which has been constructed recently in Gaduli Santalpur under the drought relief programme and there are other works also undertaken under the same programme, are very vital for the border areas of Kutch. It will check the alkaline content of the soil. I want to request the hon. Minister to allocate funds to convert the same into a metalled road. I want to request once again through you because this is a very useful road.

At the instance of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the Kutch Development Board was constituted in 1976 for the development of Kutch. But I regret to say that when Janata Government came to power in 1977, that board was done away with. I will again request the hon. Minister that Kutch is a sensitive area on the border, and therefore, the board constituted at the instance of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1976 should be revived this year. The development of Kutch is vital from the security angle. I will not plead with you more because you are a learned man and a senior Minister and the son of Late Govind Vallabh Pant. I am sure that Central Government will pay due attention to the border area of Kutch.

Now, I will submit a few points about the Bofors issue. It is a hot topic in the Press and in the House. I want to relate a true story. A king ruled in my area long ago. He had an important Minister. He was aged and very clever. The king always consulted him in every matter. But a king is a king after all. He took certain steps

on his own. It hurt self-respect of the Minister and he began putting obstacles in the functioning of the king. However, the king continued to function without his aid. The people surrounding the Minister, said, that the king cannot function without him. In this way, the Minister was brainwashed. The Minister consequently, brought Gulam Kalole from Sindh and the security of the kingdom was endangered. The area Runn of Kutch is such that it is impossible for an outsider to enter it. The king's mother that the Minister will make the country lose its independence. So she removed a white hair from her head and put it into a box. She also put a little soil of Kutch into that box. Then she sent that box to the Minister with the message that she has sent these two items to ensure that her land is protected. This made the Minister realise his error and he sent Gulam Kalole back to Sindh.

Therefore, I want to appeal with folded hands to the Opposition not to play with the security of the country. It is a question of the security of the nation and whatever allegations you are hurling at the Hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues, I went to inform you in regard to him and his family and also in the interest of the country that you very well know the truth and that you are fully aware that his mother and grandfather had donated the Rs. 50 crores worth 'Anand Bhawan' to the nation and even then you are accusing him of having been involved in the kickbacks. You know everything.

I want to humbly request that you should not at least make any attempts to criticise the steps taken for the security of the country. India belongs to you and us equally. I request you once again not to do so.

I feel proud to have been given the opportunity to speak in support of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence and I thank you for the same.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : In response to a clarification sought by Shri Indrajit Gupta in the debate, I rise to make brief intervention in regard to a press statement issued by Shri V.P. Singh.

Since Shri Indrajitji has raised this issue, I want to say that Shri V.P. Singh has tried to malign the Prime Minister by referring to the discussions held in an informal meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on 10th April, 1987. It is for the House and the country to judge whether a man who has held high office under the Constitution should be allowed to wilfully violate the oath of office by referring to matters which came within his cognizance by virtue of his holding a public office. However, since propriety and adherence to norms of Cabinet form of Government were never the strong point of Shri V.P. Singh, I shall not labour this point.

Shri V.P. Singh has fabricated the account of the meeting. Since I was present in that meeting I state before the House with full sense of responsibility and without fear of contradiction that the Prime Minister did not make the statements attributed to him by Shri V.P. Singh in his lengthy and mischievous statement. The entire discussion was about the meaning of collective responsibility. Since an important decision had been taken by the Defence Minister which had a bearing on the functioning of the whole Government, he was questioned in the informal meeting as to why he had not taken his Cabinet colleagues into confidence. He was questioned by me. Shri V.P. Singh was hard put to defend himself and tried to belittle the importance of the inquiry he had ordered. The Prime Minister did not comment on the conduct of HDW or its alleged agent nor did he suggest that the subject matter of the inquiry should be leaked to the press. Shri Singh may pose to be innocent, but the entire Press had speculated that the inquiry related to the submarine contract with HDW.

I am not going into the details of the inquiry made by Government. Questions relating to that subject will be answered by the Defence Minister. I wish to categorically deny the statements attributed by Shri V.P. Singh to the Prime Minister. This is not the first time when Shri V.P. Singh's memory has played tricks on him. He is quite used to having his statements contradicted. His selective lapse of memory is not accidental. It is politically motivated and has no relationship to facts or to his publicly proclaimed concern for truth.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Why do you not put all the documents relating to HDW including the message from the German Embassy on the Table of the House ?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not made any statement...(*Interruptions*) He has said what he has to say. It is not a statement.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : This is not the only point he has made. We have asked the Government to publish all the documents relating to...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the lady Member to speak.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Are they ready to publish, Sir ? What is the point in issuing a maligning statement ? (*Interruptions*). You are issuing the maligning statement. The country wants to know the secret...

(*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the point at issue is...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is not a question between V.P. Singh and Prime Minister. The country wants to know...

(*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the whole issue before this House which was brought by Shri Indrajit Gupta was related to that particular meeting in which Mr. V.P. Singh's action...

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Mr. Indrajit Gupta made the point that the Minister's statement has been contradicted by the former Defence Minister....

S. BUTA SINGH : ...of going to the press without intimation to the Cabinet, without the permission of the Prime Minister on such a vital issue was referred to and that is how I thought it my duty to place before this august House the facts relating to that meeting. Shri V.P. Singh's statement is mischievous because he has tried to twist the proceedings of that meeting. He has gone out to malign the Prime Minister. In this meeting we were also present. Therefore, I went to put the record straight.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I or anybody does not know it. He is stating something about this Committee on Political Affairs. Only Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Buta Singh know about that. We, all of us, do not know. Why are you shouting for nothing ? Can you take your seat ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is making a statement on something about which we do not know. Only either Mr. V.P. Singh or Mr. Buta Singh know about that. We are not aware of that.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : The Ambassador has sent a message over which that inquiry was ordered.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has referred to the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Everything was covered up.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : When he refers to something about the Cabinet, you and I do not know about that. Why are you quarrelling ?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : He cannot escape by making this kind of statement. If you go through Shri V.P. Singh's statement...

(*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I had raised these issues and they were reported next day in the *Hindustan Times*, I remember, on the 11th—that happened on the 10th April, on 11th of April 1987 the same issue was replied by me. (*Interruptions*). The same thing I am repeating here, nothing new. (*Interruptions*). He has brought out a story only to malign the Prime Minister.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Are you ready to lay before this House the whole document relating to HDW ? How can you escape by making this kind of statement ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Buta Singh is Home Minister now, he is not the Defence Minister.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You cannot escape by making the statement. This is wrong.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Mr. V.P. Singh has asked this question.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I will not allow you. Kindly take you seat. He has nothing to do with this. You may put the question to the Defence Minister.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Are you permitting discussion on this question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. RURIEN (Idukki) : Sir, I am on a point of order. After the Minister's statement, no questions are allowed.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly take your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : No question after Minister's statement, under the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a statement.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has intervened. So far as we are concerned, he has not made any statement.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a simple intervention, not a statement.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : I would like to place on record the appreciation...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go ahead.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : I am really surprised. Opposition leaders and Members should have appreciated the fact, when one Senior Opposition leader makes a statement here, the Minister of Home Affairs comes and intervenes and explains the position. They should at least recognise the sensitivity of the Government in this matter. Instead of that, they are drawing conclusions and they are talking about things which are not relevant to the situation. (*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing. It will not go on record. I am only allowing Mrs. Bhandari. Only Mrs. Bhandari will go on record.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the lady Member speak, please. Why are you harassing her ?

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, you are also not letting her speak.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Except Mrs. Bhandari, nothing will go on record. That she says will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHIRMAN : Why are you intervening ? Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : I would like to put on record our thankful appreciation for the Defence personnel who are stationed in Sikkim for lending a helping hand during the 40-day bandh of GNLF during which period Sikkim was cut off from the rest of the country.

I feel sad when I recall the attitude of the Centre towards this tiny but peaceful State, Sikkim which remained cut off from the rest of the country for 40 days. Not

[Shrimati D. K. Bhandari]

a single word of sympathy was there from the Centre, particularly from the Ministry of Home Affairs. In any case, that is past.

Our Defence personnel deserve praise for their splendid response whenever there has been a call from the nation. They are valiantly guarding the frontiers whether it be the difficult areas of Himalayas or the deserts or the Southern shore and even while fighting for the country's prestige in Sri Lanka.

They need every encouragement and support of the people of our country. They are the glowing example of harmony, unity and Indianess. We are proud of them. Continuing induction of latest and the most modern armaments into the neighbouring countries is a threat to the country's security. Hence there is utmost need to arm our Defence personnel with not only machinery but superior weapons. The freedom which we are enjoying today is gained through lot of sacrifices made by our forefathers and freedom fighters. We have not only to save this freedom but also to nurture that also. Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. Our nuclear policy option should be kept open. Pakistan's trying to go nuclear should be constantly reviewed. We should not be caught napping.

Sir, the youth from the various parts of the country should be encouraged to join the different wings of the Defence Services. Recruitment centres should be opened in Sikkim; in some of the North-Eastern States, to help and encourage the youth from that region to join the different wings of the Defence Forces.

Sir, the NCC is doing well in the area. But I would like to request you to open some Sainik Schools in those areas also. Ex-servicemen personnel who spent their life for the service of the nation should be well looked after. The recent tragic happenings in Darjeeling and Shillong where ex-Servicemen were victims of violence is a reflection on the Centre's attitude towards them. In Shillong and Meghalaya, scores of ex-Servicemen have to leave their hearth and home. They were made refugees due to violence unleashed by some communal

fanatics. Right in the Capital Shillong, a large number of ex-Servicemen were victims. Their hearth and homes were burnt down, which they built with the salary they earned while serving this country. Their homes were burnt and their property destroyed. A Colonel had to run for his life. He and his family members had to leave the home. When all these things were happening, what is the Centre and the Defence Ministry doing to safeguard them, to protect these people and give them relief. I am told that the Meghalaya Government has selected a site, a graveyard, in *Jhawapara* in the Cantonment area for their rehabilitation. Should such a place be selected for this purpose? Could not a better place be given for this purpose? Many ex-Servicemen have left Meghalaya. What the Defence Ministry has done to give relief and to provide shelter to them at least?

The story of ex-Servicemen in the troubled Darjeeling is heart-rending. These people have been passing through very bad days. It is reported that Lt. Gen. Rawat, Dy. Chief of the Army Staff and another senior official recently visited Darjeeling following representation from serving Army personnel. That shows the enormity of the tragedy. I would request the Central Government to minimise such happenings. This will have serious repercussions. Ex-Servicemen should not be left to such fate.

Sir, the morale of our serving personnel should be kept high. If their sisters are raped and if their homes are burnt, then how can we keep their morale high? So, the Central Government should keep in view, all these things.

Ex-Servicemen's Association or League should be strengthened. Those below a certain age should be given gainful employment in areas where they are best suited. Their welfare should also be uppermost in the mind of the Government. Sikkim is a small State. Even then, it has considerable number of ex-Servicemen. I would request the hon. Minister to extend the financial help for them so that they could also spend their rest of the life being fruitful to the nation.

Sir, the relation between the Defence personnel and the local people should be

cordial. Efforts should be made to see that they should not offend the feelings of the local people. Recently, in North Sikkim, one fine morning the tribal people of that area found out that their agricultural fields were taken over by the Army people and they were not informed; not to speak of this that they have informed the State Government. The tribal people of that area made a representation to the President of India who was on a visit to Sikkim at that time. They have made a representation to the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister also. I myself wrote a letter to the Defence Minister explaining the situation. As every one knows, in Sikkim, agricultural land is a scarce commodity since only twelve per cent of the total area of the State is arable. In such a situation, if Army takes away the agricultural land, where will these people go? This could have been sorted out without creating such unpleasantness if the concerned people had taken some care. We are very much aware that they need land to organise for better preparedness and all that. But if they had informed the State Government, those people could have been given alternative land in which case the feelings of the people would not have been hurt in this way.

While I support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence, I would like to add one sentence. That is, the grants which are being taken in the name of Defence must be spent in providing better preparedness for the security of our country; the money should not be spent in a way that gives rise to doubts which, in the recent past, we have witnessed. It was very unfortunate for the country whatever have come out by way of proving or denying the allegations. Such things should not recur in future.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank those brave soldiers who are sacrificing their lives in Sri Lanka and in the border areas like Sia-Chen for guarding the frontiers of the country and for following and implementing the policies of the Government.

When we discuss about our servicemen, a picture of such a person is drawn up in

our minds, about one who does not even bother about his own life while protecting the honour of the nation. Every soldier is always prepared to protect the traditions and prestige of the country and it is for this reason that everybody regardless of whether belonging to the ruling party or the Opposition is also giving suggestions for the improvement of the Defence Services and so it is essential to take maximum possible measures to improve the quality of life of defence personnel.

The soldier spends a significant portion of his life as a disciplined person and in a service which demands discipline. When he retires, he finds himself in an atmosphere which is completely different to the one he has been used to for a long time. It is our responsibility as individuals and also as members of society to provide him a atmosphere in which he can feel at home after his retirement and where his capabilities can be better utilised.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Defence has announced several schemes for the welfare of the ex-serviceman and the benefits of those schemes are also reaching them. The ex-serviceman after his retirement wants to invest his life's savings in some industry or in some other useful field. But it has been observed that he is not provided required assistance by the Ministry of Industry and other Department of the Government and by banks and other such financial institutions. On the contrary, he is often cheated. I want to request the hon. Minister of Defence after due consultations with the Chief Ministers of various States, financial commission or such other organisation should be set up in every state which would assist the ex-servicemen in setting up industrial units. They should be assisted in selection of the industry, in matters of production and also of marketing. It is essential to set up such an organisation.

14.55 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

The quota which has been provided for the ex-servicemen in our public undertakings, the para-military forces and in such other organisations, is not being fully utilised. It is essential to utilise this quota fully and also to enhance it. This should be ensured. Whenever such quota exists, unless it is

[Shri Harish Rawat]

utilised, it will not benefit those people. I want to submit that the Defence Minister should ask the private sector also to shoulder some responsibility in this matter should be taken up with the Ministry of Industries as well.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence has mentioned the territorial army. But not much work has been done in this regard. The amount spent for it is also very less as compared to other countries. The territorial army can become a very important instrument for providing employment to the ex-service men. I want to submit that Defence Ministry should pay more attention to this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when K.P. Singh Deo was the Minister, the hill areas were considered to be vulnerable from the point of view of environment and therefore, it was decided to set up an environmental task force. It is important to pay attention in this respect as well. Similarly, I welcome the Pension Courts established for determining the minimum pension but here, I want to submit that action should be taken to eliminate the disparities in pensions of the ex-service men. In this connection, a high-powered committee has been constituted which has been mentioned by Shri Parashar, and its recommendations should be accepted. I understand your financial constraints and that it is not possible for you to fulfill all these demands at once, but disparities in pension hurts the ex-personnel of Defence services. A number of ex-service men who took part in two wars, feel too much when they see some ex-service men of the same rank getting more pension than themselves. Their feeling is natural. Therefore attention should be paid towards this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the number of Ex-service men in some areas is quite high and I am proud of the fact that one and a half lakhs of them belong only to my constituency. Ordnance factories should be set up in such areas in order to provide them employment.

Border-Road-Organisation has served the country with complete devotion. But it has been observed that construction work carried out by it, varies from place to place.

It should pay specific attention towards the area from Lipu Lake to Nitipass near China border, for, the construction work in this area has not been carried out to the desired extent. China has developed roads, provided short-landing facility and constructed aerodrum in the Taklaknt area. I request you that this area should be considered as sensitive as that of Arunachal or North East.

As I have already stated, a number of ex-servicemen belong to my constituency, but now the percentage of recruitment from this area is decreasing. These are the areas where people feel proud for joining the army. It is therefore essential to get at the roots of falling percentage in those areas. I would suggest that army schools should be opened in these areas, so that the children of Ex-servicemen can prepare themselves for the future and get selected to the commission as and when opportunity is available. Similarly Government has paid attention towards NCC and at present there is strength of nearly ten and a half lakhs NCC Cadets.

15.00 hrs.

But the funds allocated for this scheme are insufficient. I would urge the hon. Defence Minister that if NCC could be made compulsory in all the educational institutions throughout the country it would be quite useful. If it is not possible then it should be made compulsory at least in the educational institutions of border areas or sensitive areas. I would like to talk about mountaineering also. The condition of Mountaineering Institute in Uttar Kashi, which works under the chairmanship of Defence Minister, is not good. Facilities and incentives should be given to them. More equipment should be supplied and scope of their activities should also be extended. A number of undertakings work under Defence Ministry, but the performance of the workers of Ordnance Factories is really appreciating, and we must appreciate them. The performance as well as the production are really applaudable. I would like to congratulate the Minister of State in the Department of Defence Production and supplies along with the members of his staff and request them to maintain the tempo. We should maintain very good relations with the labour for this purpose.

A number of Awards have been given from time to time by the courts or there have been Arbitration Awards also. But the department is colloss in implementing Arbitration awards whether it relates to Packers, Store keepers, civil motor driver, Scientific Assistant, or Draftsman. For instance—Arbitration Award of packers was declared on Nov. 10, 1985. Since then whenever any question was raised in the House or any enquiry was made, assurances were given that it would be implemented very soon as it was in final stage of decision. But that stage has not come till today. Packers and workers are still waiting that when the Award will be implemented. Although Government have earned profit owing to their hard work but instead of rewarding the workers, the Government reduced their overtime from 54 hours to 51 hours. The Government is not saving anything in this way because the work which used to be performed by the workers, is now being excuted through the Prive contractors and in this manner lakh and crores of rupees are being spent. Attention must be paid towards this. Standing orders on labour of 1982 are not being implemented. Many casual workers who worked for 90 days, or 180 days, have been retrenched. This is the situation is Muradnagar and many other ordnance depots. Attention should be paid towards this. Besides, workers are being retrenched from ordnance factories in the name of surplus labour. I would like to tell the Defence Minister that the Cabinet had decided that a meeting at department level will be held and its Members will also be coopted and an APEX body will be set up to remove the in consistancies created as a result of recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission. But the Defence Ministry has not taken any initiative in this regard. There are a number of inconsistencies in our highly skilled grade 'A' category and many other cases, which could be referred. But resentment is growing among the workers as nothing has been done in this regard. The pay of employees has increased, but the evaluation work of their job has not been done in accordance with their revised pay structure. The performance of the worker should be evaluated so that he may get the benefits of the bonus. I request you to pay attention towards this aspect also.

Not only promotion but even recruitment of the workers has been banned in the Defence Department since long. There is great resentment among workers due to this and various posts are also lying vacant in Defence Ministry. I would request the hon. Defence Minister through you, that while millions and billions of rupees are being spent every year on the defence of the country, which is completely justified and the whole country supports it, but proper attention should be paid towards the defence production also. It should not be neglected. You will be definitely benefited by paying that money to the labourers, which is being paid to the contractors by banning promotions and recruitment. So I would request to lift the ban on the appointment of various posts in Defence Ministry, without delay. With these words I support the Demands for Grants of Defence Ministry and express my gratitude for hard work and devotion of the workers of Defence Ministry, for which the nation is proud.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of Defence Ministry. Firstly, I pay homage to these defence personnel who sacrificed their lives in Sri Lanka. Funds allocated to the Defence Ministry have been increased, but in the present circumstance I consider it to be insufficient.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What point of order ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I was not here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, you can't raise it now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Buta Singh strong a surprise on the House by speaking on Defence. I would like to know under what rules...

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per rules, you can raise your point of order only in relation to the business before the House at the moment.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can't raise about anything else. You read the rules.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Under what rules did he speak, I would like to know.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will not go on record. Whatever you say, will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister intervened and he was permitted to intervene and the Minister spoke. You can't raise it like that. Whatever you said, will not be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You read the rules.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jaipal Reddy, I have ruled out your point of order.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not permitted your point of order.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, you are wasting your energy. Nothing will be recorded and nothing will be public. Why do you waste your energy ?

(*Interruptions*)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Was it a statement ?

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Our hon. Speaker very often says, there are rules. You can raise all these problems as per rules.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not go on record. The Minister was allowed to intervene. (*Interruptions*) Now there is no point of order.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever Madam Shaktawat says will go on record. Other than that, not even a word will go on record...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, I have not allowed him to raise his point of order. So, your reply also will not be on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not permitting you. I told her even what she said will not be on record...

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not go on record...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will read the rules. This is Rule 376 (2) which says 'Point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment.' Now she is talking on something else. You cannot raise the point of order. So, I am not permitting any point of order and whatever you are saying will not be recorded. Not even a word will go on record and it will not be published even...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Dandavate I am not permitting any point of order...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot...

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Can you tell me under what rule you are not permitting the point of order ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have read the rules. You can raise the point of order only on the subject before the House. You are talking something else.

(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When the debate is in relation to that particular subject, the point of order...*(Interruptions)...* You will have to listen to the point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I cannot listen...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded without the permission of the Chair.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Unfortunately, you have no right not to listen to me on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can listen to you only if you raise something as per the rules, Otherwise, I cannot.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am raising the point of order under the present debate. How can you prevent it ? I have also studied the rules as you have.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Rule 376 is 'A point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House.' The business before the House at present is the discussion on Defence and she is here on her legs. If you raise a point of order about what she said, then I can listen to you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : About a debate on defence, I am raising a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the point of order ? Yes, tell me how is it related to the Defence ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I cannot silently communicate to you my point of order. A debate is going on Defence, Sir, it is the convention that when one particular item is being discussed and debated—just now we are debating and discussing the Defence aspect—no Defence debate can be intercepted and item cannot be side-tracked by taking some other item. Yes, it is an accepted fact. Unless...*(Interruptions)*

Just listen to me. Who are they to interrupt me ?

You listen to my point of order. The debate is going on Defence. The rule of this House is if on any item a debate is going on and if at any point of time the debate is to be side-tracked, and some other item is to be intercepted, in that case it can be done with the permission of the Chair. If a statement is to be made, you will find out, for instance under Rule 372, if the Minister is to make Statement in between he has to take your permission. He has not taken your permission, therefore,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was permitted by the Chair. How can you say like this ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : A Defence debate cannot be intercepted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Sir, if he has finished, I would like to make a point.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He cannot hijack the debate to something else. *(Interruptions)* He did it. *(Interruptions)* If the text of the Statement was sent to you. I want to know whether you have approved that and whether you allowed him to sidetrack the defence debate and talk about the external situation. I would like to know that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Our submission is that a point of order is raised to see that the proceedings of the House are conducted according to the rules. The point of order cannot be raised to correct what has already happened in the House. Now, Mr. Buta Singh's statement is not really taking place now. It has already been done. The Hon. lady is speaking and if any point of order has to be raised it can be raised with respect to the procedure the lady is following in the House. Sir, if a Minister wants to make a statement, any Minister or any Member can make a statement in the House with the permission of the Chair, the Presiding Officer. The permission was sought and it was given. *(Interruptions)* The permission was sought, the permission was given and now they are trying to nullify the

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

permission given by you. They are wanting to nullify the statement given by you. Such a kind of point of order cannot be raised.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That privilege statement was approved by the Speaker.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Sir, I would like to add what my Hon. colleague has said. It was an intervention by Shri Buta Singh.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : May I please complete what I want to say ? It was an intervention. He spoke like any other Member of Parliament is allowed to speak in the debate. And he took the permission of the Chair. The Chair, called the name.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The intervention is on the same subject on which the concerned Minister is to add something. The intervention in a debate means consistent with a subject on which the debate is going on. The Minister makes some observation, that is called as intervention. It was not an intervention.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me give my ruling.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot probably hear all of you before giving my ruling. I cannot listen to everybody.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Buta Singh sought the permission of the Chair to intervene in the debate and he was permitted. It

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was as per the rules. The point of order raised by Prof. Madhu Dandavate is not in order because it does not relate to the discussion in the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Who is correct of the two Ministers ?.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : But he made a statement. That was not an intervention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have been repeatedly telling you that Shri Buta Singh was intervening in the discussion. He sought the permission of the Chair and the permission was given.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot question the decision of the Chair.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I can always request.. If a mistake was committed, it can be rectified.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise the matter in some other forum, but cannot raise it here as a point of order.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : That statement was not included in the agenda... (*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am telling you Mr. Kurup, it was not a statement. He sought the permission of the Chair to intervene in the discussion and he was permitted by the Chair.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Shri Buta Singh must have the courage to come before the House and... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : A Minister never makes such a flippant intervention and that too a Home Minister on Defence matters !

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please. Let her speak. Yes Madam, you please speak.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for Grants of Defence Ministry.

Firstly, I pay homage to the defence personnel who sacrificed their lives in Sri Lanka. At present 15 per cent of the total budget is being spent on the defence. In the present circumstances, though our nation is quite peace-loving and believes in non-alignment, yet we need formidable defence power to defend our borders, to maintain peace at national and international level and also maintain unity and integrity of the country. In the present circumstances when Pakistan has acquired atomic power, China is a constant threat to our border, Indian ocean is no longer a peace zone and we are committed to restore peace in Sri Lanka, the expenditure on Defence Ministry is not on the high side. We are aware of the fact that our neighbouring countries Pakistan and China are spending huge amount on defence. In such crucial circumstances when our neighbour countries are supplying arms to the terrorists clandestinely by intruding the border States like Jammu-Kashmir, Rajasthan and Punjab, it is quite essential for our defence personnel to be armed with most sophisticated weapons. I am unable to understand why do the opposition leaders criticize it? When it was decided to purchase a submarine equipped with sophisticated weapons to strengthen the navy, then the opposition suspected to have engaged middlemen for this purpose. The opposition raised objection again when long range guns were bought which were required for the swampish areas, mountainous regions and the desert areas. They have been acquired with great efforts and they are most suitable for us. I would request all the opposition Members present here, that they are degrading the army, their morale, their morality and their capability. Inspite of the fact that members of the opposition knew nothing about the quality of the gun, objections have been raised by them. Even then the hon. Prime Minister agreed to get the matter investigated...*(Interruptions)...*

I never disturb you, why are you disturbing me then? *(Interruptions)* Our Prime Minister himself agreed to set up a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the bungling, if any. The report of that committee has not yet been received and still all the opposition members are raising meaningless objections. It is just the violation of democratic traditions, a contempt of the House, you are questioning the integrity of the

members of the committee. I would urge the hon. Members that such type of criticism will only down the morale of our defence personnel. You must think before you utter such things. Such criticism of Armed forces has never taken place before. But you have been raising meaningless objections regarding defence since last year. You must realize that this is not in the interests of our country.

I want to submit as to how the neighbouring States are keeping an evil eye on India. Pakistan is not having good intentions on Siachen and Western borders. I want to congratulate to the hon. Minister of Defence for having personally visited an inaccessible area like Sia-chen and boosted the morale of our defence personnel. I want to congratulate you very much for it because our defence personnel stationed in such difficult terrains have received considerable boost of morale by this gesture.

I want to submit that China under its expansionist policy today, is in occupation of 14 thousand square miles of our land and in view of this, it is essential for us to be quite vigilant. I would also like to state that our army deployed in Sri Lanka has a very high morale despite of being in an alien country. We not only pay tributes to our soldiers who have become martyrs there but we also thank our forces for enabling us to fulfill our commitment of establishing peace in that country as per our agreement.

15 29 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would also like to submit that now the whole world has achieved nuclear capability. Every big power has nuclear weapons today, and even our neighbour Pakistan has got them. In such a situation, our country should also deliberate on this matter and should decide not to lag behind in this regard. I want to congratulate Hon. Prime Minister for saying that if the need arises, we shall not delay in making use of nuclear power. I want to submit as to why U.S.A. wants us to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty? We did not sign it because it would have been an instrument to exercise control on our independence. Therefore, we did not sign it. Today, there can be no doubt about the bravery and valour of our

[Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat]

defence forces. Our forces enjoy enormous prestige in the world. But I want to mention some of the problems which they are constantly facing.

I want also to submit that the condition of the defence personnel is not very comfortable and though their allowances and salaries have increased yet they are in need of more facilities. For example, they are facing shortage of houses. Only 14 per cent of the Defence personnel in the cantonment areas and in the border areas are in possession of houses. You are aware that the joint family system is breaking down and under such circumstances, we should provide housing facilities to them. Sainik schools have been opened to adequately equip the future generations. There are 18 sainik schools in the country today and one such school is located at Chittorgarh as well... (*Interruptions*) The examination results of these schools are quite good. I have stated earlier also that Rajasthan is the land of brave men and women. Hence, it is imperative that a sainik college should be opened and it must be established in Chittorgarh. It will enable the sainik school students to continue further studies, because normally they do not continue their studies after school education. It is not necessary to increase the number of soldiers to a large extent. We have to prepare the second line of Defence and for which we have very capable students coming from the Sainik schools and colleges... (*Interruptions*)... I do not follow as to why people interrupt while I am making my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Shaktawat, please sum up now. We do not have time.

[Translation]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Speaker, Sir, I am summing up. I want to submit that the families of our Defence personnel fighting in Sri Lanka and in the border areas, are the responsibility of the Central and the State Government. We should pay attention towards them. Especially when our servicemen go home on

leave, they are under great strain because their land is occupied by others illegally. As a result of this, they spend their holidays taking rounds of the Revenue Office. Therefore, the Central Government should issue special directions to the Revenue officers to ensure that land owned by the personnel of the Defence services are not occupied by anyone and in case it so happens, settlements should be made at the earliest. Those who spend their entire lives in serving the nation should be given protection after they retire. In order to provide them employment after their retirement, special quotas should be reserved for them in the Private and Public Sector Organisations. I want to draw your attention to the plight of war widows as well. Their condition is miserable. I will conclude within a minute or two.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is all, Madam, Your remarks will not go on record. That is all, down now; take your seat...

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. SPEAKER : Now Mr. Tanti. You can speak for four minutes. Make your points.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : One minute, Sir. We have a copy of the statement, about which they say it is not a statement. It starts with : 'I rise to make a statement.'

MR. SPEAKER : Don't disturb me now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Why this hair-splitting—whether it is a statement or intervention ?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Dandavate, please sit down. It is all right. Don't interrupt Mr. Tanti.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let them not mislead the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, please examine the record. You said it was a statement. He says it was an intervention. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will see later on. Don't interrupt.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record now, without my permission. Yes, Mr. Tanti.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down. Will you please sit down ? I have asked you to sit down I will see later on. Don't disturb me please don't interrupt me now. Please sit down. I request you to sit down at the moment. I will see later on.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabbor) : I support the Demands of for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. (Interruption.)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : A member, or a Minister can intervene.

(Interruption.)

MR. SPEAKER : I will see. I can see it. It will not be carried away. I will see.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : We are very much concerned with the Defence of the country. We have a right to mention about the security. (Interruptions) The country's security is most important. If the country is properly secured, if the country is secure, then only we can live. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : If the security of the country is at stake, the country cannot progress. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him speak. The hon. Member is speaking.

(Interruption.)

MR. SPEAKER : You are always welcome. When have you been denied ? Yes, please, Mr. Tanti.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I am coming. You are taking to them, Sir. That is why... (Interruption.) I am silent.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not. I am just making them silent.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We succumb to your pressure.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : So far as the Defence Budget is concerned, we have nothing to oppose it because the security of the country is very important and everybody is concerned about it, but the tension which is going on in the Pakistan border and in Arunachal Pradesh border by the intrusion of China is very dangerous. We are raising this matter in the House times without number. The Government is promising to take up the matter with the respective Governments, but no positive action appears to have been taken.

For example, the Chinese are disturbing the Arunachal border. They are forcibly taking persons and occupying those areas. Pakistan is indulging in extremist activities, along with some extremist forces of the country and our Government is busy in maintaining relations with Sri Lanka by sending our poor soldiers there to protect their country.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : They are not poor, they are brave.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : As a result of it we are losing our brothers there. Hundreds of innocent soldiers of our country have been killed, for no fault of their own I do not know what will be the outcome. These are very serious things. On the other hand, the Government has been scandalised and the people of the globe have come to know that the Government is indulging in corruption, so far as these deals with Bosors and other things are concerned.

The Defence Minister the other day made a statement that they have not engaged middlemen. The next day the Swedish Radio and the papers have confirmed that it was Government of India which engaged middlemen, the Hindus. Whether that is a fact or not,

[Shri Bhadreswar Tanti]

it is not know. But the allegation has been made. You are trying to save your neck but you cannot save it. So, this should not be there.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing about Defence ?

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I am coming to it. I am coming for the first time, from my State...*(Interruption.)*

MR. SPEAKER : Because nothing concerns more than your State, because you are on the border. That is why I am asking, because you are concerned.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Till now he was going; now he is coming.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting ? All right, come to the Point. Mr. Tanti.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Look to the North-Eastern States where no industry so far as the ordnance factory is concerned, has been set up as yet. Recruitment is almost nil so far as Junior Commissioned Officers are concerned. What to speak of recruitment of senior Commissioned Officers.

You have neglected the North-Eastern region, the people of the North-Eastern region are neglected while recruiting persons into the Army. So, you want to maintain unity and integrity. That is your phraseology for political gain. You must look at the problems of all these States. You must recruit persons from all the States. If you go on recruiting people from one or two States only, then we can say, that will not help.

The hon. Minister for Defence is from my State. I am very proud of it. He should also pay some attention to it.

(Interruption.)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : They should also be proud.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Tanti, defence of the entire country is in your hands.

[English]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : On the other hand, I am making some serious allegation also. I have got some allegations against the Army Personnel. This has appeared in the paper.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Look here. If you have to make any allegation, you have to give prior notice and there are certain rules and regulations under Rule 353. Anything can be published anywhere. I will not take cognisance of it.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I will not do that. I must be very fair. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have to be, if you want me to be fair to you.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : These serious allegations against some Army Personnel have come very often in papers. Everybody knew about it. So far as the North Eastern States are concerned, very often you will find the allegations against the Army Personnel. So, you must try to see that these nuisances are not committed, and people are refrained from imbibing it. You try to train their mind properly. Simply, if you train them in the parade, that will not do. They must be properly trained to maintain discipline, to maintain their character and probity. It is an allegation, and you cannot deny that. In many places, the tribal women and girls and the innocent girls are being harassed. All these things are there. You cannot ignore this.

MR. SPEAKER : No wild allegations.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : This is not wild allegations. I am having the paper cuttings. You cannot ignore these wire messages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : These are very serious.

MR. SPEAKER : Your time is over. Mr. Soz.

[Translation]

Mr. Tanti, please sit down now.

[English]

I have given you more than five minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : I am on a point of order. My point of order is that in the last two three sentences which he has spoken, he has said something about the Army personnel. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Without basis and without facts, nothing is allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : You remove it from the record.

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record and see.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : I do not want to take much time of the House. I thought of making one or two suggestions.

We are safe with Pantji. He is an able Minister. He is having able colleagues also. So, I have no worry. I want him to do something very spectacular in one or two fields, that is what is uppermost in my mind this time.

One is, as far as the weapon systems are concerned, I cannot give the details as I have hardly three or four minutes. I think, we have reached the stage where the stage is set for take off. We have a very good stock of scientists, very good Officers in the Army and by this time, technology has been transferred. Therefore, I expect an able Minister like Mr. Pant to come forward with an assurance that we shall mark a take-off in the production of various kinds of arms indigenously, that will be in the interest of the country and that will be a contribution by Mr. Pant to the defences of the country.

Secondly, there is an impression that the Government of India of late is not talking vehemently or with force about Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace.

There is nothing tangible to support this impression. But would the hon. Minister, when he rises to answer the debate, assure the House that whatever the difficulties created

by imperialists, whatever the dimensions of difficulties, India will stand to this commitment that Indian Ocean will be a zone of peace and it will be a de-militarised zone.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How can India alone do it ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : India will perform its role. India is a leader not only in Asia but it has performed its role in various forums. That is known to the hon. Defence Minister. There is no time to dwell deeper on this.

I was reading this report. There are very good points in it and it is a very good report. The Defence Ministry has rightly asserted in the report that in our immediate neighbourhood there is a war. There was a danger that India could take sides. But India has remained absolutely neutral so far as the war in the Gulf is concerned. It is a very good thing. It is a misfortune that we could not play a part. We did try at NAM and other forums that Iran-Iraq war should terminate and there should be peace. We did not succeed. But one thing is there that both Iran and Iraq look at us for help—not help in arms. But they do not doubt our neutrality. It is a good thing. But whatever we can, we should try to extinguish the fire of war in the Gulf.

Indo-Pakistan border has been sealed. It could be sealed earlier also. But it is a very good thing. In this connection, I have one suggestion. I am satisfied that the border has been sealed. But could the hon. Defence Minister invite Members of Parliament in groups so that we could go there and see how the border is sealed ? This applies not only about the border but in other areas also where there is no vulnerability. We should not be theoretical going into these reports only. We should have understanding of what is happening at the grassroot level, how our defences have been organised. So more particularly, Members of Parliament should be invited in groups to see how the border has been sealed and how the defences have been organised. It is a very good thing.

I come momentarily to Jammu & Kashmir. We have no problems. We have no complaints. Prof. Parashar was wanting to have an ordnance factory in Himachal Pradesh: In Jammu & Kashmir

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

we should have many industries. But that is for the Ministry of Industry. Would the Defence Ministry also setting up a factory there? It may not be full-fledged ordnance factory, but a factory where components could be produced there so that we feel that we are also participating in the defence production.

Regarding recruitment from Jammu & Kashmir, the State deserves recruitment for various fields of defences. We deserve pointed attention by the hon. Minister.

I had wanted to move some cut motions, token though but I could not. One was that my constituency is touching the border with Pakistan throughout. Whenever I went to the areas like Gurig, Tangdar, Keran, etc. it was said that their claims so far as acquisition of land by the Army for roads or for other purposes is concerned, had not been settled. There are so many claims pending. I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to that so that these pending claims are settled.

I have a complaint also. Jawans are not receiving better deal. In the British time, the Colonel, the Major or the Captain would deal with them because the sepoy would be an Indian. But here is a captain who is to be captain of the team. They both are interested in the defences of the motherland. Several complaints have come to individual Members of Parliament. I do know about other MPs. They feel that officers from Captain onwards involve jawans in their household duties. It is a complaint I have received. Our jawans feel that they have to obey the orders of the Captain or the Major or the Colonel. They should feel that they are our brothers and they should not be mal-treated.

Then, Sir, in this Report, there are so many laudable welfare schemes. Sir, very laudable programmes are there. But Sir, I would request the hon. Minister kindly to look into those complaints.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I have been a Captain and Colonel and I had never seen anybody working in a household. I do not know who have complained.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I have heard that some welfare schemes meant for

disabled persons have been withdrawn. I do not whether this is a wrong impression.

Now, finally one word of appreciation must go on record for our armed forces, be it in Sri Lanka, be it on our borders, our armed forces have played a very laudable role and I remember how in Meerut riots, army jawans were preferred to Police and the people of Meerut who gave a Memorandum to the Magistrate, want army contingent to be in charge of there security. So, at this point of time, there is hardly time available to me to speak. But I place on record my deep appreciation for the armed forces who are upright and doing their duty very honestly and chivalrously. Thank you.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, I have been waiting since morning. No Member from the Independent Group has been given a chance to take part in the debate. My name is on the top of the list of speakers.

MR. SPEAKER : Does not matter Mrs. Bhandari has spoken from the Independent side.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, she is not an Independent Member. I have given my name in the morning. You are avoiding my taking part in the debate because I am going to speak regarding Shri V.P. Singh's statement and Shri Buta Singh's statement which are contradictory and that is why you are deliberately avoiding me.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no question. Please now take your seat.

[Translation]

You had requested to be forgiven on one occasion and you had said that you would not disturb again.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am not disturbing. (Interruptions)

[English]

It is my right. Why should I apologise. I have been waiting since morning. My name is there in the list.

MR. SPEAKER : Whether your name is there or not, it is my right to give you time or not. Now, you are wasting my time. Please take your seat.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : No, Sir. You are making injest to me.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This is my decision. You take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am not going to budge an inch. You are always using your powers. You want to avoid me because I have got the material ...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the time to speak. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Datta Samant, you are barking at the wrong tree. When the debate on the JPC Report comes, you can speak whatever you like.

(*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, you are deliberately avoiding me.

MR. SPEAKER : I ask you to take your seat. Otherwise, I will ask you to withdraw from the House.

(*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I have already given my name.

MR. SPEAKER : Does not matter. It is my choice.'

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, you are avoiding me ...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I will name you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(*Interruption*)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you when the JPC Report comes up for discussion. I have given you promise that I will allow you to speak on that debate.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)*

DR. DATTA SAMANT : This is the highest forum and I am the Member of this House. I should be allowed to speak on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow when the JPC Report is discussed in this House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : But this is an important debate.

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you that I will allow you when the JPC report is discussed.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I will name this man. Please order.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : ...He has got the whole mafia ...
(*Interruptions*). You cannot allow him to do this inside the House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : You should not talk about me as mafia.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No question. You cannot call anybody as mafia.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Tewary, it is my duty to call a man to order.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : He is holding the House to ransom.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Please sit down. I have promised that whenever the JPC Report comes up for discussion, I will allow you to express your views on the same and then you may speak on the Hinduja Brothers or the Banchchans but at present you should either sit down quietly or you may leave.

(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I should not be treated like this.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Colonel, you are starting the same thing once again. What are you doing in spite of you being so wise ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is good to spare a penny sometimes.

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, I am walking out.

15.56 hrs.

Dr. Datta Samant then left the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. K.K. Tewary should get an opportunity to be named in this Session as well.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : Sir, I should like to thank the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and I would like to begin by saying that I am sorry that I could not be present on Friday when some hon. Members spoke. But I have gone through their speeches and I have taken all the points that they have made.

My colleagues, Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Santosh Mohan Dev have already spoken. Shivraj ji has covered the area of Defence production and Shri Santosh Mohan Dev has covered the area of ex-Servicemen and related matters.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Buta Singh intervened.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Buta Singh did intervene and I would like to state because Prof. Dandavate is a respected Member of the House, there is no great mystery in this. He would have made a statement if he had spoken after the Demands had been passed. Since it was in the course of the Demands being discussed, he called it 'intervention'. That is all. He spoke with the permission of the Chair. He has a right to speak. (*Interruption*). I have explained why. He

would have called it a 'Statement' had he spoken after the debate ended. Because it was in the middle of the debate, he called it an 'intervention'. It is as simple as that.

Sir, the debate was very constructive and I would like to thank the hon. Members for their very valuable suggestions from both sides of the House, I should add. And it was clear that their intention was to strengthen the defences of the country and to see that the Defence expenditure is put to best use. These were the two underlying considerations which were weighing with the hon. Members who spoke.

Many hon. Members have referred to our brave soldiers and have referred to them in glowing terms. I would like to associate myself with these sentiments. And we also like to thank all those who were involved in seeing that the Army, the Navy and the Air Force function effectively because behind every soldier there are production units, there are scientists, there are administrators, there is the whole army of people supporting the Defence Forces and all of them must today be thanked and their role must be acknowledged. I do not want to go into the different areas about which people spoke — Prof. Parashar spoke about the hill people, some others spoke about other people and there was one Member who said that people from all over the country should be taken into the Armed Forces, Prof. Sez, I think, I don't find him here. But that is what is being done and in fact an account is kept of the various States, how many people they contribute to the Armed Forces and therefore, if there is any such complaint, I can discuss it with any hon. Member who is interested in the subject.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, there were some points, some discordant notes I would call them, not one but there were some. I can only say that if there is some misunderstanding, some mis-information, some mis-conception, some failure on the part of the Government to put across its point or, in some cases, failure on the part of the Government, then we would acknowledge, we would accept it and we would learn from mistakes and if there is mis-information on the part of the hon. Members, we can hope of rectify it. But, there is also dis-information. All of us are

aware that there are interested parties in our country and there are interested countries aboard, who would like to see the progress of India slowed down, who are not easy at the thought of India rising to its full stature and its full power and who, therefore, lose no opportunity of trying to demoralise us, as a people, who refer to our army and say that the quality of our soldiers is not good, their performance is not good, the products of our production units are not good, our scientists and technologists are doing second-rate work and that there is excess Defence expenditure which a poor country cannot afford. These are arguments which we have heard for years and years. Now, all of us, sitting across that side of the House or this side, are equally concerned about it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Who said all these things ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : They are many who say that. Let us beware of mis-information that is spread. This is my point.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : But nobody said it.

SHRI K.C. PANT : No. I am not talking of anybody here. But I am talking of mis-information because it does penetrate in a very subtle way. It is brought out in magazines and articles. Suppose we are developing a weapon system and there is somebody who wants to sell a weapon system. Then there is certainly over a period of time an attempt to create the impression that the weapon system we are developing is obsolete before we develop it and so on and so forth. That is the general point that I was making and Nirmalaji made the point that we should say nothing that demoralises our armed forces. I think that is a point well taken. I would say that what Tantiji thinks can be attributed to mis-information. But I would not labour the point but I think he should understand what he said about Sri Lanka is not in consonance with the spirit in which the other remarks have been made from both sides of the House.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : What about Sri Lanka ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will come to Sri Lanka also. I will come to it.

The important thing on which all of us are agreed upon is that India cannot afford to let it guard down.

We have a long history and that history has been ups and downs. We have known victory and defeat. We have known colonialism. As a nation-State with 40 years history, we have seen many wars. Against this background and the current geo-political realities to which many hon. Members referred, nobody can deny the need to build strong defences in India. That is the one point on which I think we are all agreed and I think all of us know by instinct and by analysis that if we leave a window of vulnerability open in this country, it is the surest way of inviting aggression. That has been our experience and it is the one thing we must avoid at all costs.

The other point on which the House is agreed is that this is too large a country and too important a country to be subservient to any other country whether in the matter of defence or, in the matter of independence of judgement or expression of views. Therefore, we have chosen Non-alignment in this country since Pandit-ji's day and it has stood the test of time and it has the support of all sections of this House and this country. But one of the prices, if you like, that has to be paid for Non-alignment is that we have to pay for our own Defence, that we are, under nobody's umbrella. Whenever we view the question of Defence expenditure, we have to keep these basic facts in mind.

Prof. K.K. Tewary referred to security in its broader aspects. I agree with him. But I do hope that he will agree with me since I have to cover a lot of ground and may be it is better if I do not get into the other aspects of security which are as relevant as the narrower aspects of Defence. I agree entirely with that perception.

The question of Defence expenditure is raised at every Budget. Shri Amal Datta is not here. He managed his feet by saying in the same speech that Defence expenditures are too high and too little. But he is not here. So, I do not want to refer to him. But the fact of the matter is that there are many...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The value of the rupee is going down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : Anyway, I am on a serious point and that serious point is that when we make comparison of the Defence expenditure in our country with that in other countries, then it is not always easy because you are never sure whether you are comparing the like-to-like. But nevertheless if I give you some statistics, you will agree with me that India is a low spender on Defence. We spend 4 per cent of our GDP on Defence. Pakistan is reported to be spending 6.3 per cent of its GDP. 18 percent of the Central Government expenditure is spent on Defence. This is again a modest sum, a modest percentage. We have 15,600 kms of borders. We have a population now of roughly 748 million. This is important. We have one out of 748 citizens in uniform. China has one out of 232 citizens in uniform. Pakistan has one out of 183. We have 64 soldiers per K.M. of border. Pakistan has 80 ; China has 214. These are objective indices. There is no question of fiddling with the budget or with the figures or including certain budget heads and not including certain other budget heads. I give you these objective figures so that we can make a comparison both in relative terms and absolute terms. You will again come to the same conclusion that our Defence spending is modest. Now, the reason for this is not far to seek. While I agree with Shri Jaipal Reddy entirely that we have a certain responsibility to maintain a certain strength of our Defence Forces by virtue of our size, by virtue of our geographical situation, perhaps by virtue of our history and perhaps by virtue of our own conception of the contributions we can make, with all humility, to the rest of the world in terms of peace, in terms of ideas which the world may need today, which have been given in the past by this country, all these things are only possible if we survive as a nation. For that survival, we need a certain strength. He also referred to domestic cohesion. He referred to the fact that there should be pride in the country and if the country is strong that too is a factor for unity and cohesion. I agree with him. I think while we are not developing our Defence Forces, for that reason one of the spin-offs and one of the side-effects of strong Defence Forces is that the unity is strengthened, the unity of the country is

strengthened. But one thing we have always avoided. We have avoided seeking or pursuing the military path for its own sake. Our founding-fathers had not believed in it and we have not followed that path. We have also, accepted that concentration of defence to the exclusion of the socio-economic factors and others, to which Prof. Tewary referred, again, does not serve the cause of security in its larger sense.

We are conscious of the need, for instance, of our Defence contributing, in a drought year, to the country when so many States are suffering from drought, when tubewells become important, when there is no fodder for the animals.

Defence is not an ivory tower which is unconnected with all that is happening in the country. Therefore, we have reduced, we have willingly given up, a part of the Defence budget last year. This is a point which Mr. Amal Datta raised. Well, we agreed to give Rs. 500 crores because we are as much concerned, and so are the defence forces—I speak for them because I spoke to them, and willingly and readily they said, "Yes; we will reduce our expenditure this year if it is needed for these purposes". So, we are conscious of all these things. But it is important that we maintain a minimum level of defence preparedness. It is also important that we maintain the momentum of modernisation. While one may cut down the budget, there are limits beyond which it will begin to hurt defence preparedness. It is because of these considerations and the changing geo-political situation which does not allow us to become complacent or even to relax in our defence preparedness that we have settled on a certain figure for defence expenditure this year.

Some criticism is made of the annual budget in relation to the last budget. It is legitimate; comparison is also legitimate; but I would request hon. Members not to go by year-to-year comparison but to see the trend of expenditure because one has to take a slightly longer term view of defence expenditure. For instance, in 1984-85, our defence expenditure stood at the level of Rs. 7136 crores and this year we come to the House with a proposal of Rs. 13,000 crores. Similarly, there was a reference to the capital side against maintenance expenditure. I think, Shri Amal Datta, again, raised that

issue. Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, the expenditure on capital outlay increased from 10.14 per cent to 22.79 per cent. The investment on Research and Development, the House will be very glad to know, has witnessed a phenomenal expansion of over 152 per cent during this period. Today we are spending about five per cent of our defence expenditure on Research and Development. The only...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us what will be the import component of our defence equipment as compared to the indigenous component in terms of value ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will have to collect those figures, but I can say this. Today one important figure is that, based on our own research and development, we have a production of about Rs. 1600 crores. But if you want to know the exact component, the figure I will have to collect...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In terms of percentage.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I take the point, and I have no hesitation in saying that in many of our defence factories what we are producing does contain imported components also, sometimes a fairly large quantum of imported components, but then there is a progression in the indigenisation, from CKDs to SKDs to indigenous production; and in some cases, one goes up to a high percentage. In some cases the end product is never a hundred per cent for the simple reason that it is not worthwhile to produce some items of which we need very small quantities. But if specifically you would like to know, I will get those figures.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : May I remind the Hon. Minister regarding the Editorial of 'Patriot' dated 12th March, 1988 where it has been said that ordnance factories could not use Rs. 254 crores out of Rs. 680 crores and, therefore, had to content with Rs. 338 crores. So, was the case with DRDO which could not spend one-fourth of the...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You should not say like this.

[English]

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will come to DRDO and Defence Production later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : The Hon. Minister of Defence mentioned yesterday regarding the performance of ordnance factories and DRDO. Would you clarify the position ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : He has dealt with this. Last year, he dealt with it at a great length. Even the point which was made by Professor Dandavate was dealt with last year by Shivraji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : I am trying to deal with this year's Budget first. I shall deal with any point, which you have, later.

Another point which was raised by Shri Amal Datta was with regard to defence planning. He said : "there is no defence planning." I would submit that defence is one of those areas where you have to have a long-term perspective, you have to have a medium-term perspective, you have to have a short-term perspective. You cannot but have that. Now we have Five Year Plans for defence. And we have about three decades of experience in defence planning. And since May 1986, we have the concept of defence planning staff in which there is a greater intergration.

Another point he made was about—I think, there is some validity in that—that greater integration between three services, between R & D and the defence production people. So, this has been done. At the secretariat level, there is a Committee on Defence Planning and the overall political guidance is by the CCPA, by the Political Affairs Committee.

16.17 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM in the
Chair ▶

[Shri K. C. Pant]

Having said that, if Shri Amal Datta or any other Hon. friends have some other ideas, have some proposal, some suggestions, I would be open to any suggestion that you have. There is never a last word in these matters. If you can suggest some other formulation for better planning, certainly we can look at that also. So, in these matters, there is no rigidity. We are all interested in that. And if you have any suggestions, I would welcome that.

Modernisation in the armed forces is extremely important. Some Hon. Members referred to it pointedly and referred to the rapid changes that are taking place. Now, today obsolescence is so fast that we have to continuously up-date the weapons and equipment. And if you allow any significant gap to develop between the sophistication of your own weapons and that of your adversaries, then it certainly demoralises your armed forces. And then in the case of war—God forbids—if there is a war—but in case of war for which the army has to be prepared, then they may have to pay dearly for any lapse in this matter. So, this problem of modernisation through indigenisation of production and R & D work within the country is one of the most important foundations of our entire defence effort.

And as many Hon. friends have pointed out, the acquisition of a defence aircraft and other equipment and weapons by Pakistan creates new compulsions for us. I would not like to go over the entire area of new acquisitions by us. But, I think, most Members already know that our major programmes like the Main Battle Tanks, the BMP II, T-72, M-I Tanks and other weapons and equipment which are meant to increase the fire power of our army are all being made in this country. Production units are coming up. Some have already been tried out.

On the naval side, some reference was made to the nuclear propelled submarine, INS Chakra which we have taken on lease and which has been very warmly welcomed in this country. We have taken it from the Soviet Union and it is in our waters. We have also inducted aircraft for naval defences and hull-mounted sonars, torpe-

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does and other sophisticated equipment. The Air Force has acquired the MiG 29, MiG 27 and additional Mirage aircraft. In the transport fleet, IL 76, AN 32 and Dornier 228 have been inducted. So our modernisation programme has a very wide scope and all the three Services are involved in materials, systems, weapons and equipment and of course, the corresponding training that has to go with any improvement in any of these areas.

I must pay also my tribute to our scientists, engineers and other specialists who have contributed significantly to this programme to which I will come later.

Shri Jaipal Reddy referred to the rifles. He will be glad to know that 5.56 rifles have been developed and it is undergoing intensive trials. Some orders have already been placed by the Army on our Ordnance Factories.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Do you mean to say that we have developed it ourselves and we are not going to purchase it ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes. It is our own. About night vision, Prof. Dandavate tried to prevent him from going too far; but still he went too far. That is sometimes dangerous; he should listen to senior people. Night vision binoculars goggles and other equipment are being produced by a number of factories in the country. They are continually inducted into services...*(Interruptions)*...Wherever needed. Once you have it, you can use it where you want. If the equipment is there, wherever you need, then you can use it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The point that I want to make is that the night vision equipment required for infantry is qualitatively different from the night vision equipment required for tanks.

SHRI K.C. PANT : But you have not heard me. I said binoculars, goggles and other equipment.

These on-going programmes and preparations for national defence are based on our perception of our national security.

Gen. Sparrow, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Ayyappu Reddy and others spoke about our security environment and our threat perceptions. I have had the benefit of the

analysis of our security environment and threat perceptions in relation to our geo-strategic situation. This of course is perhaps the most important contribution of this debate.

All my friends have agreed that the Indian sub-continent as well as the Indian Ocean is not free from security threats today. We have been for the past few years increasingly drawn into the vortex of international rivalries. Many Hon. Members have taken note of the positive developments of the signing of the INF Treaty between the USA and the USSR. In this respect I think we should take note of the role of the Six Nation initiative of which India and our Prime Minister was a part which certainly helped to encourage as well as to find solutions to some of the trickier problems and generally help the cause of signing this INF Treaty, the cause of peace, nuclear disarmament to the extent that this went forward. The extent to which it went forward may be limited in numbers and percentages of weapons; but in terms of a break-through of the attitude and the mind, it is a big step forward. Since it also involves agreements of verification, it opens a door to further agreements. This is a very important contribution of the INF Treaty. In our own neighbourhood, the agreement on Afghanistan is welcome and the initiative of the USSR in withdrawing troops from Afghanistan is also to be welcomed.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : What about the arms from Pakistan ? They flow to India for terrorists.

SHRI K.C. PANT : There is no doubt, there are a lot of arms floating around...

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : There are arms on the border. Why don't you go and find out and get them eliminated ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I think, you have chosen a wrong career.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : I mean it.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes, I know, you mean it.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Kindly go by his emotions. Don't go by his advice.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I take one point seriously and that point is that in this whole region, we have a piling up of weapons and armaments on an unprecedented scale. Certainly, lots of those weapons are going to be floating around, lots of them are going to get into wrong hands. I think, the other day, Prof. Dandavate made this point. It is a valid point. I said so, during question hour. I am prepared to concede that what you are saying also is a point to be seriously considered. But as I told Prof. Dandavate, it is not easy for us to control the situation in other countries. On our borders, you know, we are taking certain steps. But within other countries, the inventory of arms is growing and the development in the next few months will show what the final shape is. I don't think that we should be unmindful of the consequences. But, at this stage, we should welcome the fact that so far at least progress has been made in a certain direction which we welcome. But the conflict potential remains. The conflict potential remains although the nature of the conflict may change. I think that is the point which you are making.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Yes, Sir.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I may not comment on your solution but I agree with the concern that you have expressed about the piling up of weapons. Pakistan even without this peculiar situation, even otherwise, Pakistan is getting through US Aid, weapons and equipments which are very sophisticated. This House has very often discussed the implications of the inflow of these weapons into Pakistan. As Shri K.K. Tewary said. Pakistan is regarded as a frontline State in the world security apparatus or conception or blueprint or what have you of the United States and the western powers. So, this inflow continues. And we are told that even after the Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan, this inflow will not stop. That is the present position. That's why it becomes even more important for us to see that we do not like this window of vulnerability to develop. It is more important for us to be clear that our defence preparedness is maintained at a certain level at which no one is tempted to start any aggression against us. Our intentions may be peaceful. They are peaceful and our actions have been peaceful. But

[Shri K. C. Pant]

in spite of that, our defence preparedness has to be such that in case of aggression, the end-result must be favourable to us. That is the litmus test of our defence preparedness. And all that we are doing is aimed at this objective.

Sir, Shri Ayyappu Reddy, Shri Jaipal Singh...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Shri Jaipal Reddy, not Jaipal Singh.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sorry, Jaipal Reddy, not Singh. There are Jaipal Singhs also but he is not one.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is from a different tribe.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Gen. Sparrow and others have taken note of lengthening shadows of nuclear weapons in the sub-continent. I have dealt with this question last year. Mrs. Bhandari also spoke about it. The fact is that Pakistan's clandestine efforts are going on at a feverish pitch. They want to acquire a nuclear weapons capability and a number of Pakistanis have been arrested in other countries smuggling out sensitive components and technologies. These have not deterred them. The newspapers talk of her already possessing a few nuclear weapons. I want to assure all the hon. Members that we shall take all necessary steps to ensure that our soldiers in our country are not put to a disadvantage. The House does not expect me to spell out in detail what our response would be, suffice it to state that our response would be decisive and adequate. Sh. Jaipal Reddy referred to another development, which I think the House should take note of, and that is the stationing of long range missile in Saudi Arabia. These missiles are of Chinese origin and they have a range of 2000 miles. I think he mentioned a slightly higher figure. They have mentioned various figures in various magazines, say around 200 miles, and all concerned with these missiles have been assuring the world that they do not have any nuclear war heads. But I think, so far as the countries which come within the range of these missiles are concerned, alarm bells have been ringing. And it is quite natural for all these countries to be concerned about this development.

There are other possible developments, but I think I should not refer to them too explicitly, but all of you understand what I am driving at. I refer to these developments, because I think the House should be fully informed of the present threat and the potential threat to our security, not only by the induction of new arms, but new technologies and new capabilities into our neighbourhood.

A reference was made to Siachen. I have been there, as some of the hon. Members were good enough to mention, and I have seen the conditions there. I must say that I belong to the hills, I have seen the snow which very few people in the country have but the elements are very cruel in Siachen, at a height of about 20,000 feet and the temperature goes down as much as minus 35 or 40 degrees. Winds are icy and no amount of clothing is enough to keep you warm, lack of oxygen comes in the way of sleeping for long hours. If you expose your skin, there is always the danger of frost bite and you may lose your fingers. Conditions there are difficult and in these conditions, our soldiers whom I met, inspite of all these difficulties, were in a state which I can call as high morale. This is something which puts new life into me, puts new spirit into me, seeing these people fighting those elements in those difficult conditions without a shadow of doubt in their minds and determined in case of any aggression as happened in the past, last year to see that they protect our territory; to see that they give a fitting reply; to see that they repulse every kind of attack that is a kind of morale in which I found our men. And I feel that our borders are very safe in such hands. Sir, the Siachen situation is one which caused some concern because there is a certain amount of artillery fighting going on. No major military action has taken place after September October but we keep an eye, we keep a watch over it and at the same time we are trying to see that the next meeting at the Defence Secretaries level takes place soon. There has been some discussion also and the dates have been discussed. Some dates were suggested which did not suit us. In fact because of the Defence debate, we felt that the Defence Secretary should stay here till the Defence debate. Then their Defence Secretary is busy just now because

of the explosions they have had. You know, the explosion of ammunition dumps that they have had in their country and so they have suggested slightly later date, but the exact date has not been fixed. I would only like to say that, so far as we are concerned, when the date is fixed, then we shall certainly try to come to some understanding and we seek as always to live in peace with Pakistan. We are maintaining a continuing dialogue with them and in the spirit of the Shimla agreement, we are seeking cooperation and understanding. And interactions are taking place at various levels, and I can assure the House that efforts on our part to improve our relationship with that country will continue. But I am afraid that the evidence of Pakistan's support to the terrorists in Punjab has been one of the most important factors for creating a very adverse impact on the popular minds of this country and all of us. That is a kind of thing which must be avoided, if we are to make a real break through in our bilateral relations.

Some reference was made to China. The Prime Minister the other day dealt with it at length, about the 8th round of border talks held in an atmosphere of friendship. While we naturally take note of the force levels of China along our borders when they increase, we take a note of that also. Similarly, with the Tibet, when they increase we take a note of that factor also. That in any case we have to. But we still feel that if there is greater understanding then we would welcome it. If the outstanding issues can be resolved through dialogue and discussion, that is where this country has always wanted to go.

Now, Sir, there is a lot of reference to Sri Lanka. Now, the Sri Lankan situation today is very different from when the IPKF had moved or when the Accord was signed. So, it is important to remember that the Accord was signed at the 11th hour, so to speak the Accord was signed at the time when Sri Lankan troops were moving into the Jaffna Peninsula. At that stage we were asked, we as a country, were asked to play a role in bringing about a greater sense of understanding between the Tamils and the Sinhalees. It is to build a bridge between the two ethnic groups and to try to bring peace back to the

strife-torn island. And we accepted that. We accepted that partly because we have had excellent relations with Sri Lanka, age old relations, cultural relations, linguistic relations and ethnic relations. We have had a common history of colonial rule and since gaining Freedom, we have been close to each other. We wish Sri Lanka well. We will all sections of the population of Sri Lanka well. We wish the Sinhalese well, we wish the Tamils well, we wish the Buddhists well and we wish the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians and all of them well. We hope that they can live in peace in Sri Lanka. This is the basic objective with which we have been functioning over the years. In this particular case, there was some doubt about the ability of Sri Lanka to survive as one country. There is a question about the unity of that country. India certainly would like Sri Lanka to continue as a unified country and this became one of the objectives of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord signed by the President of Sri Lanka and our Prime Minister. It is for the protection of the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. Secondly, the Tamils of Sri Lanka are also close to us and it was again to create conditions in that country in which the Tamils can satisfy all their legitimate aspirations within the framework of a unified Sri Lanka, that we signed the accord. And Sir, it is to achieve these two objectives that the Indian Peace Keeping Force went to Sri Lanka and the movement of our Forces there was at the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government. Also, it is a part of our larger security concern because our security concerns there in Sri Lanka are themselves a part of our larger perception of the geo-political realities in this part of Asia. We are not indifferent to it and our security concerns are intimately bound with it. Let us be clear on that point. A stable and unified Sri Lanka at peace with herself is in our interest as well as hers.

Then, Shri Somu of the DMK Party spoke. I do not know whether he is here now. Yes, he is here.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North) : I am quite watching Sir.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, I am always grateful to those who watch quietly, in this House at least,

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I will take him back to the time when the IPKF soldiers landed in Sri Lanka. They landed as missionaries of peace. They did not go there with blazing guns. Let him not get a wrong impression and let him not give the country a wrong impression. After going there, they have had the best of relations with the LTTE boys also.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Can the hon. Minister say as to how many Tamil were killed after the IPKF started its operations ? It is only a clarification.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, the Tamils, unfortunately, have been killed in Sri Lanka before the IPKF went and even after they went. What I am trying to point out is that when the IPKF soldiers went there, they did not go with blazing guns, they did not go with violence in mind and they did not go with any animus. They went as messengers of peace from this country. They went and established good relations with the LTTE.

There was a clause in the accord that the LTTE should surrender all its arms. It surrendered some arms but it did not surrender other arms. IPKF still maintained very cordial relations, trying to persuade them to surrender the arms. The IPKF negotiated with the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government and the tripartite negotiations led to the...*(Interruption)*.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : How could the IPK Force kill the innocent Tamils ? That was my question and it was not answered.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Don't you want to know how many of our soldiers were killed ?

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : It was because of the government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It was all because of the ego of the Prime Minister.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : What are you talking ? There is no question of any ego.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why are you attacking him ? He is not a terrorist.

SHRI K.C. PANT : He is not a terrorist. But I think he is somewhat nervous to hear the truth. After all, I am not saying anything which is even one inch away from truth. There is no deviation from truth. What I am telling you is, because of the negotiations between the IPKF and the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE, the proposal was mooted and agreed upon—almost agreed upon—to form an interim administration in which the LTTE would have a majority. Let us remember it. They would have seven out of 11, if my memory serves me right. Not only that, when they wanted two names to be changed, Sri Lankan Government has been persuaded to accept the change. It was only when the administrator's name was changed that the negotiations fell through and a stage was reached where an interim administration was not set up. I ask Mr. Somu, as to what more the IPKF has done.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Why don't you order ceasefire ? You had called Shri Prabhakaran umpteen times before signing the accord. Now, he is ready for talks. Why don't you call him for talks ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will come to that part, i.e. the political part also. But first, I wanted to make it clear. Secondly, Shri Prabhakaran was in Delhi and discussions were held with him before the signing of the accord. Shri Somu knows that. These are facts that I am speaking about.

The third point that I want to make is that it is only when uncontrolled violence erupted, threatening Sri Lanka, that the IPKF started acting. And that they had to do. Because under the terms of the accord, they were expected to do that. Now, I would like to ask him this. If one Tamil Group kills another, who is to blame ? If one Tamil Group kills all the leaders of another Group, who is to blame ? Therefore, we are not taking sides. We are for peace. We would like all the Tamil Groups to lay down the arms. We would like to offer protection to all of them. We also have in mind the fact that there is, after all, a large Tamil population in Sri Lanka. They have been living there for centuries and how do we not have to keep in mind the interests of all Tamils in Sri Lanka, not

only of one Group or the second Group, but of all the Tamils ?

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Shri Prabhakaran had categorically stated that he had not accepted the accord and that the terms of the accord were not shown to him. He had categorically stated so last year.

AN HON. MEMBER : How do you know ? Had he spoken to you ?

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : It has come in the press. How do you know everything else ?

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : It does not behove a Member of Parliament to speak like this.

SHRI K.C. PANT : About the soldiers, Shri Somu has asked as to what the soldiers were doing. I can only tell you one thing. When the IPKF Forces were entering Jaffna, they sometimes faced walls of women and children as shields for the LTTE boys. I am not speaking with rancour. I am not speaking with ill-will. But our soldiers preferred to take casualties, rather than fire at these women and children. They preferred to take casualties ... (Interruption).

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Mr. Jonny, the lieutenant of Prabhakaran was killed by IPKF. He was taken to have a dialogue with Prabhakaran. He was killed midway, by IPKF. What do you have to say to this ? .. (Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, they are treating Mr. Somu as if he is an LTTE man, and they are IPKF people.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : You should be proud. Everybody is. At least once you should say so.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : You can be proud, because IPKF is not killing your people. They are killing Tamils. They are not killing your people. (Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : I can well understand the sentiments of our hon. friends. We salute these brave soldiers. They are, after all, there for the cause of the country. (Interruptions)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Don't yield to Mr. Somu.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Many of them have lost their limbs. Many of them have died. They have died for the country. We salute them, and we shall always remember them with gratitude.

Shri Chiranjit Lal Sharma said that there was a lack of coordination between the Defence Ministry, External Affairs Ministry and the IPKF. (Interruptions) That is not correct. There was very close coordination between the two Ministries.

The political solution of the problem was the aspect which was raised by Shri Indrajit Gupta. I cannot but repeat what the Prime Minister has said, viz. that if LTTE agrees to surrender arms, support the Accord, they are most welcome to join the political process. Elections are round the corner. Let them participate in the elections; and if they have the support of the people, then the logical conclusion will follow. So, this appears to me to be a good opportunity and we have, at the level of the Prime Minister, made this position clear. So, Mr. Somu and other friends are most welcome to help in this process. Why don't they take a constructive line ?

Shri Indrajit Gupta and I think Prof. Soz referred to the fact that some concessions which had been made earlier, have been withdrawn. I shall look into that. I am not aware of that just now. But I shall look into this matter.

Now a word about Indo-Soviet cooperation in the Defence sector. This relationship has grown over the years, and it has stood us in good stead in strengthening our Defence industries, and in enabling us to achieve a high degree of self-reliance in the matter of weapons and equipment used by all the three Services.

I am glad to say that high-level consultations have taken place in the recent past. As the House knows, Soviet Union and India share many perceptions, and Indo-Soviet cooperation in Defence will continue to deepen, with emphasis on joint effort and development, collaborative production arrangements, technology transfer and greater self-reliance for India, through indigenization. This relationship has now stood the test of time, and we continue to go forward in a number of key areas where

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Soviet collaboration is beneficial to our country.

Recently, we had consultations with the U.S. Government, as a sequel to the dialogue initiated during the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S. earlier. The United States has a strong scientific and technical base in Defence; and in many areas, they are leaders of weapons and equipment technology. Many countries have Defence cooperation arrangements with the U.S., including Socialist countries like China. The U.S. Government indicated its willingness to give us access to some of their advanced technologies, and we think it is in our national interest to acquire these technologies on terms which are advantageous to us. The Light Combat Aircraft and Super Computer and other areas of high technology have been specifically identified for such cooperation between India and the United States. I wish to make it clear that this growing association between our two countries is not at the expense of any other existing relationship, or at the expense of our indigenous scientific and technological capabilities. Indo-U.S. Cooperation in the Light Combat Aircraft project and other areas is still in an early stage, and it is our intention to nurture these incipient collaborative arrangements with great care and attention.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I want to seek a clarification. You have purchased the Miraj-2000. The company offered us the licence for manufacture from the raw material stage onwards. Why did we not avail of it ? I put this question, but his not been answered.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I have not come to Defence Production, yet. But as far as I remember, a Committee of Secretaries went into this and found out that it was not cost effective. But that I have to check with the record. This is, as far as I remember it.

General Sparrow and others referred to Defence Production and Defence R and D. Shri Jaipal Reddy referred to the need to consolidate technological growth which is what Prof. Dandavate also probably has in mind. And both would not like to import, they would like us to consolidate technology rather than import.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Does he know his mind ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I know it better than you know yours.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Shri Harish Rawat spoke of workers in the Defence Production unit. Shri Shivraj Patil has already dealt with Defence Production as such. But one point was made directly or indirectly, repeatedly and I think I should deal with that. And that is, as to why we have been importing and continue to import equipment and weapons. I have explained that we cannot allow too much of a gap to develop between our weapons and the weapons of our potential adversaries. I am sure, the House will agree with that.

Now, the other part of it is, that why do we not straight-away import technology and manufacture ? We must realise that we are a country which has a certain background and in that background you not find sophisticated industries except in the last couple of decades. You need the workmen, you need the craftsman, you need the scientists, you need the engineers and others who are attuned to certain sophisticated work, the work certainly of precision, and so on. Therefore, you have to build up this kind of body of men. Now, initially this applies to other sectors also.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Has America refused the use of technology ? Has America refused the supply of material used in light combat aircraft ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : This is a continuous dialogue. Whenever they say, "No, if you want it badly enough," we will try to get from them. Wherever we need it from somebody else, we try to get it. We have to keep our national interests in mind and we persist where it is necessary. We are not sensitive in that, if national interest is involved. The important thing is that we have been buying foreign know-how for producing more hardware and sometimes in our eagerness to industrialise or eagerness to be self-reliant, we have imported know-how. If some friends say, why do you import know-how and we do not produce it in the country, by implication we had to import the equipment or the weapons. Is that the preferred alternative ? I think

Prof. Dandavate also would agree that the preferred alternative is to import know-how, rather than to import a finished product. Then the other question is, that if you import know-how, why do you go in for next generation, again of imported equipment or imported weapons? I agree with that, in broad terms. But we have got to again take into account the fact that people who supply know-how to this country do not necessarily supply complete know-how.

17 00 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In fact, they may very often be interested in building know-how, taking money from us, but see to it that we cannot absorb know-how and build upon it, because they are interested in continuing exports. So, we have to bring in the latest technologies if we can and you know very well that the exporting countries try to give you the second latest technology and not the latest. It is a matter of policy for them. It is up to us. If we have the basic knowledge, then we can tell them 'No, we will not take this, we will take only the latest'. In many areas, we reached that stage and we get the latest technology for defence research.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Defence research will have to be made.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Prof. Ranga, I quite agree with you.

We also find that we buy something and we find that the country which has sold us the particular technology has already gone in for the next generation of technology. So, there still use to be, to some extent, a continuing race and we are trying to catch up with the leaders. So, it is not that this is not known, but it is that sometimes we are not in a very favourable position to extract what exactly we want and the best we want. But, I can assure you aware of these factors and that we have steadily improving our capacity to produce on the basis of our own R & D; our capacity to absorb the technology that we import; and our capacity to build on that technology. I cannot say that we will not import anything. That is not possible. Self-sufficiency

is not the goal, self-reliance is the goal. In that context, ... (*Interruption*.)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : My point is that whatever technology we have asked from them, will it be used in the Light Combat Aircraft?

SHRI K.C. PANT : You see, composite electronics, metals, computers—all these are different aspects of any collaboration. What we need, we try to get. I cannot give you a total list here. If you are interested, then I can certainly try to give you more information on that. I am trying to give you the broad approach to the question of transfer of technology, because transfer of technology is difficult. What I was trying to say was, we do not even get fully engineered information, and all of you will agree that our production units are not always attuned to manufacture in the most sophisticated manner, because the manufacturing process has also changed abroad. So, the only thing I can say is that I will give you examples after this, that we seemed to have got over many of these problems in some vital important areas. I shall refer to the areas. I shall refer to the precise product, so that you get a picture. I am glad to say that in some important areas, we have moved, to what I can call, to a state of our technology, that is indigenous. One such instance is 'Indra'—a low level radar 'Indra', to which you have referred and another hon. Member has also referred Bharat Electronics is now manufacturing it and it is manufacturing it in numbers, and by the end of this decade, the value of production of this radar alone will be worth a few hundred crore of rupees. Our Air Chief went into this. He considered this radar the best compared to the ones available from elsewhere. Now this is important. I want to underline it. The Air Chief has given the certificate after comparing it with similar radar systems from other countries. This is what I regard as the success of our R & D.

Similarly, in the field of Navy, it is getting indigenously developed torpedoes, sonar, electronic warfare systems from our own production agencies. But the one which has been referred to by Shri Jaipal Reddy—FSAPDS project that is important because it can penetrate the thickest of armours and it is capable of being fired from

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our tanks. Therefore, on these two counts, it is a very important development. I think, he knows this has been developed by the DRDO and has been accepted by our Army. Once again, the Army has very rigorous tests before it accepts weapon like this. So this is another achievement in the ammunition sector which, I thought, I should bring to the notice of the House. Now DRDO is going to produce this in collaboration with the Defence Production. They are going to help in setting up this factory. Afterwards, when the factory is set up, they will transfer it to the Defence Production people. But here I would like to tell Shri Jaipal Reddy and my other friends that it will be one of the most modern production units of its kind in the world when it is set up. It will be fully automatic and it will have robotic control. I think, this is something which the House should be glad to know. I will not give more examples. But this will enable you to get a picture of the wide range of production activities in which technology transfer has been achieved, in which our own R & D has contributed to the production effort, which is the real strength of the country. The Services are cooperating fully with this effort. I would like to tell the House with a great sense of satisfaction that the Services are fully in tune with the thrust of indigenisation. Without the help it would not have been possible. But they are encouraging and helping the scientists and engineers in this task.

There are still some areas. Industrial and engineering is one of them which need further development. I think, within a very relatively short time in some areas we will develop design skills and industrial engineering skills. But still there are many areas where more needs to be done. I think, we may not be so good at copying as the Japanese are, but in the original work, our people are doing some excellent work. I have been to many of these laboratories myself and I have been struck by the originally of some of the work that they are doing. On your behalf I would like to congratulate all the scientists and engineers who are engaged in this task.

Briefly I would like to refer to the missiles programmes in which the whole

House is interested. Hon'ble Members have congratulated the scientists and engineers on the successful test firing of the *Prithvi*. Shri Jaipal Reddy and General Sparrow also referred to the *Prithvi*.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Do not refer to him so many times, otherwise, Prof. Dandavate will not allow him to speak next time.

SHRI K.C. PANT : We do not know, but Shri Jaipal Reddy is a very good Congress man.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My only complaint is that Pantji has failed to be a good Congress man.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I think the House would be interested in knowing that after the results of the *Prithvi* firings were analysed, the performance was found to be very good. I can go so far to say that our expectation and performance have matched so well and so fully that perhaps, we may not have to test as many missiles as we originally envisaged prior to induction into the service.

I would like to assure you that we will continue with this programme. I would not like to deal specifically with the point of the range of precision which, I think, is a subject which should be left out of the discussion for obvious reasons.

Now I may refer to surface to air missile and then anti-missile to which Shri Jaipal Reddy referred. *Trishul* is already on trial and we hope to induct it into the service by 1990. Even an informed member like him did not know that actually this much progress has been made. One should acknowledge it and be satisfied by it. The other important thing in the missile sector is that even while this R & D projects are under development, the production side is geared up to take over, the moment the R & D people are ready, and this has cut down the time between the R & D development and productionisation. This is one of the important points that has been made by some of the hon. members. By the end of the decade, I hope some of the missiles will be put into services. I can assure the hon. Members that guided missiles is one area, where we want to be totally self-sufficient, and fortunately our missiles programme is more or less on schedule.

The other programme, which I want to refer to briefly, is the MBT Arjun, because here you know MBT Arjun was shown in the Republic Day Parade and most of you might have seen it, this is important; we are now carrying out extensive trials from the stand, recently there were many tests on its fire power and the results are very good. They are now planning to conduct the extensive mobility trial this summer. So, this is the progress made by MBT. I could give you more details. But I don't think more details are necessary. This broad development in the R & D sector and its productionisation across a wide sector in many areas of great importance to the three Services, that I want to bring out very briefly.

Similarly, on the LCA programme I want to make one point. This is an Indian plane. This is not an American plane, this is not a French plane and it is not a copy. It will be an Indian plane and the Government is determined to see that we push through this programme.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is Indian about it ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : The design, the concept is Indian. After all, it is not that anybody has today invented the aeroplane for the first time. But certainly on the material side, in its configuration, in its requirements; in its adaptation to the particular roles with the FRX-I, in developing an engine not straightaway to be used in the frame, but later on straightaway of course you have to use the trialed tried engine. Later on you will develop an engine and use it in all these sectors and it is an Indian effort.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is GTX engine.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes, GTX engine is being developed.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about stagnating.

SHRI K.C. PANT : It is not stagnating. It is under development and it is not an easy thing and please remember that when you are trying to develop you must remem-

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : What about shedding of 200 Kg. of weight GTX ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Well, I think the best to answer that would be that I will pass on your suggestion to the designers. I know what is behind the question. So, it will go to the design people because they will be the best people to evaluate that. You have to make high trade-offs both in terms of weight, in terms of fuel and in terms of weapon system and so on and how much power you have in the engine this is what designing is about. Therefore, I say I will pass on this suggestion to the designers. But the point I want to make for the benefit of Prof. Madhu Dandavate and other colleagues here is that when you say that you don't feel demoralised and they go ahead and we go ahead with this programme and produce LCA in this country, it will be a great achievement. It will be a great achievement.

One point was made by Mr. Ajay Mushran about the expenditure in R and D. Some time ago this complaint had come to me and I had set up a Committee to go into this. Prof. M.G.K. Menon has already seen some establishments and he has sent in a report or two. I think these reports point a reasonably good picture in terms of achieving targets, but he will look into the other units also and I can assure Shri Mushran that the question of getting value for money is extremely important and it is always foremost in our mind and we shall continue to pay attention to it.

I am done, Sir. The only thing that I would request this is to give...

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Before you finish, I want to ask something.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes, certainly.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : We have a very cross-section of the House who made a lot of points about ex-Servicemen, and we have been making them for the last three years. The major point was about the actual implementation of the recommendations of the high powered Committee and in this whether it is the same ranking same pension or whether it is implementation by the Central or the State Government of those recommendations which really matter.

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

ex-Servicemen, they have not been gone into. Let me recollect that I had even pointed out the progress as given by the Ministry of Defence in July 1987. No further progress to it had been added. Will the hon. Defence Minister like to say something about the ex-Servicemen's plight ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Oh yes, this is important.

Sir, the hon. Member has raised this issue here and earlier also and he knows what the Government is doing in this area and how keen it is to do all it can for ex-Servicemen. It so happened that while he was not in the House today, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev when he spoke dealt with this point. For good reasons he was out, I know the reasons. But he dealt with this issue and he had dealt with it already. But this is a continuing dialogue where certainly we can get together and try to see what more we can do. You know that most of the recommendations of the high powered committee have been accepted and in a few cases we are still looking at them, but he is fully aware of the picture. So, I don't think I can say anything more at this stage, but I assure him that we will look at the problems of ex-Servicemen sympathetically. Not only that, but the other issues that have been raised about those who are serving now, their housing and other problems, we are acutely aware of the fact that we owe a duty to Defence personnel at all levels to see that their problems whether it is housing, whether it is pensions, whether it is the other facilities to which a reference was made earlier, whether it is a question of their getting back their land and houses after retirement, all these are problems which...

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh) : One point about serving officers. The hon. Minister has mentioned that he would also look into the problems of serving officers of the Defence Forces. I would like to point out, Sir, with your permission, that officers in the Defence Services also belong to a Central Service just like other Central Services—the Indian Police Service and IAS. And the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that whereas for a Defence Officer—for instance take the case of Army, it takes about 18 years to reach the rank

of it. Colonel and now to get command of a Unit he has to be a full Colonel, not a Lt. Colonel. But equating this rank in the Indian Police Service an IPS officer with 5 years' service only can become a Superintendent of Police, and he is equated with Lt. Colonel. What is the Government doing to try and remove this invidious disparity that exists between different Central Services, on the one side, the Defence Services and, on the other side, Services like the IPS and the IAS and what is being done to try and compensate Defence Officers for the disadvantage which they suffer through their career in the matter of promotions vis-a-vis the Civil Services ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I am sure the hon. Member who is a very knowledgeable Member knows that at the time of the Fourth Pay Commission, a deliberate attempt was made to reduce the distance and successfully, between the Armed forces and the others to whom he referred.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Estimates Committee has recommended.

SHRI K.C. PANT : A deliberate attempt was made and, if my memory serves me right, we went beyond what the Pay Commission had said in this respect and with a running pay scale introduced on the recommendations of the Pay Commission every Officer is now assured of salary of Rs. 6,200 PM. (*Interruptions*). Let me also say something in favour of the Government. Now, the question of the Command level is a more complicated one because if you have a larger number of Superintendents of Police, you may get a day when Thana will be under a Superintendent of Police.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : As we all know, there is stress on using youth for more active roles. But in the Army, the Colonel when he takes over Command of the units would be generally over the age of 45. He will not be a youthful person whereas a SP at the age of 25 would be commanding a district and Deputy Commissioner with about the same period of service of six or seven years would be senior in status to even a Colonel.

SHRI K.C. PANT : This discussion may be difficult to conclude here but all I can say is whoever gets into the Army or when he gets into the Police, knows that

position. It is not as though we are creating the situation now. So, therefore, I did not want to accept this position after a point. But beyond that point, I think, people make their choices and, therefore, one can know the terms and conditions of service. They go by that. This does not mean that I would be indifferent to any suggestions made by hon. friends. Certainly I am open to suggestions. But he also knows the limitations within which we function. He is one of us. He knows very well the limitations and the functions in the Government.

The message which I hope this debate will give to the country is one of confidence, confidence in the Defence forces, who have always acquitted themselves with distinction, whether within the country or outside, whether during peace time or war and they should certainly get the unreserved support of this House.

Secondly, the large team of scientists and engineers who are functioning and Administrators and orders in various areas who are putting their best in the maintenance of this Army and Defence Forces also deserve our thanks.

Most of all, the inventive people in the laboratories, those highly skilled manpower which we have, which is the real strength of this country and which is what we depend upon to lift us from the status of a developing country to a developed one, must get a feeling of appreciation from this House for the work which they are doing in the laboratories. They must also get the feeling of appreciation from this House for the work that they are today doing in the laboratories. And with this, we can move ahead with confidence and I would like to

get the feeling that this House would like us to go ahead as fast as we can within the resources that are made available to us.

[*Translation*]

CH. SUNDER SINGH (Phillaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is essential to pay attention to Punjab. The situation in Punjab is very grave at present and it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to live there. Will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten us in this regard ? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence to vote together, unless Shri Syed Shahabuddin desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately.

All the cut Motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 12 to 18 relating to the Ministry of Defence."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants for 1988-89 in respect of Ministry of Defence Voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Names of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 18th March, 1988	Amount of Demand for Grant voted by Lok Sabha	
			Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
	Ministry of Defence			
12.	Ministry of Defence	102,68,00,000	28,21,00,000	513,39,00,000
				141,05,00,000

1	2	3	4
13. Defence Pensions	183,26,00,000	—	916,29,00,000
14. Defensee Services- Army	1145,83,00,000	—	5729,14,00,000
15. Defence Services- Navy	130,12,00,000	—	650,61,00,000
16. Defence Services- Air Force	298,72,00,000	—	1493,61,00,000
17. Defensee Ordnance Factories	20,65,00,000	—	103,25,00,000
18. Capital Outlay on Defence Services		643,24,00,000	3216,18,00,000

[English]

Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 37 and 38 relating to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies for which 4 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions moved will be put up on the

Notice Board shortly. In case any member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved ;

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amount on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 37 and 38 relating to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.”

Demands for Grants for 1988-89 in respect of Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 18th March 1988	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House
1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies			
37. Department of Food	406,37,00,000	20,81,00,000	2031,93,00,000
38. Department of Civil Supplies	8,10,00,000	71,00,000	40,51,00,000
			3,52,00,000

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY
(Nalgonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to make a few comments on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. This Ministry consist of two parts—the Food part and the Supplies part. When we think of Food first, it comes to everybody's mind the Food Corporation of India, which is a public sector undertaking. The Food Corporation of India has become a white elephant to the Government of India and to the people of India. Many times on the floor of this House many questions were raised and many replies were give on the subject. The Food Corporation of India has been set up in 1964 by a comprehensive piece of legislation. The prime object of this Food Corporation of India was to purchase, and to undertake the work of storage, movement, transportation and distribution of food-stuffs, all over the country. But the Food Corporation is not working properly in spite of the many concessions given to it.

Sir, the Authorised Capital was increased from Rs. 550 crores to Rs. 1000 crores. They have converted Rs. 3350 crores of loan into equity. A lot of concessions was given and easy loan facilities were also given to it. A soft-loan of Rs. 1200 crores was given to the Food Corporation of India. In addition to that, for the purchase of foodgrains. Rs. 3900 crores were also given to the Food Corporation of India. The rate of interest is 14 per cent as against 17-1/2 per cent to other institutions. In spite of all these things, the Food Corporation of India is not working properly, is not making any profit, is not coming to the rescue of the consumers. The purpose of the Food Corporation of India is to procure and distribute. But that is not being done properly. They are not procuring properly. Many hands are changing in procurement. They are not giving remunerative price to the farmers and they are not giving foodgrains at cheaper rates to the consumers. In between many things are being done.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that the losses during handling and on other accounts are about Rs. 600 crores for the five years : in 1980-81 Rs. 100 crores; in 1981-82 Rs. 116 crores; in 1982-83 Rs. 143 crores; in 1983-84 Rs. 140 crores; in

1984-85 Rs. 122 crores. Wasted foodgrains are losses on other accounts are : in 1980-81 6.43 lakh tonnes; in 1981-82 6.53 lakh tonnes; in 1982-83 7.4 lakh tonnes; in 1983-84 6.74 lakh tonnes; in 1984-85 5.57 lakh tonnes. This is the fate of handling done by the Food Corporation of India.

Actually the major function of the Corporation is to procure and distribute. The subsidy on foodgrains given in the last year was Rs. 2,000 crores and this year it is Rs. 2142.64 crores. The distribution system may be varied for the poverty alleviation scheme—that is also not effective. The total turnover of the Food Corporation is Rs. 10,949 crores and the total foodgrain turnover is round about 4.15 million tonnes. New dimensions have not been given to the system. The system is not working.

Coming to construction of godowns, the Food Corporation have constructed some godowns, but many of them, they have taken on hire. As on 31-3-9986, the FCI's capacity was as follows : owned 103.66 lakh tonnes; hired 102.9 lakh tonnes; total 207 lakh tonnes; CWC—owned 36.121 lakh tonnes and hired 17.35 lakh tonnes, thus totalling 53.47 lakh tonnes; SWCs—owned 44.52 lakh tonnes and hired 34.60 lakh tonnes. This is the position. If the Food Corporation is working for the welfare of the people, they should have constructed their own godowns. In the name of hire, they are paying a huge amount at the cost of the common man. Every paisa which they are spending is at the cost of the common man. Therefore, this attitude should go and they have to construct more godowns in the rural areas; either the SWCs or the CWC should own them.

Coming to the construction also, many loopholes are there and they have to be plugged. One or two cases came to my notice. They are giving a hundred per cent extra over the estimated rates while in the State contracts they have given only 10 or 15 per cent. I do not know the reason why they are giving a hundred per cent here. Also there is the sub-contract. They are giving to the registered contractor, and registered contractors are giving it to sub-contractors thereby incurring huge loss on the construction.

[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

Coming to the storage methods CWC and SWCs have not constructed storage houses. Wherever the storage houses are there, the construction capacity is also low and thereby they are hiring the godowns. I would urge upon the Government to suggest to the State Governments to construct more number of godowns so that wastage can be minimised.

The maintenance is also very poor in CWC and SWCs. And there is adulteration also. Where from is the adulteration coming? There are number of loopholes. The act is there but nobody is using it. We have to put some teeth in the Act so that adulteration is stopped.

The central vigilance should be strengthened and the culprit should be brought to books. These things should be taken care of by the Government of India as well as State Governments. Then only we can solve this problem.

Coming to the distribution system, food is a primary input for everybody. But for the last three or four years—I do not know where this Green Revolution has gone—year to year the production is coming down from 1983-84. The highest level was 152 million tonnes. Last year it was 144 million tonnes. I do not know, this year, it may be 133 or 140 million tonnes because of severe drought and floods. Even the procurement is very bad. Up to January, the rise procurement was only 4.7 million tonnes as against the last year figure of 9.21. During 1985-86, it was 9.5 million tonnes. Regarding wheat, it is 7.85 million tonnes as compared to last year's figure of 10.54. Even in coarse grains, there is shortfall. Even edible oils and other oils, it is very low. I do not know what is the plan of the Minister. Is he going in for imports or is he going to enhance production? Of course, it comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. How are you going to solve this problem? How should we feed the nation? In edible oils and other things, we are going for imports. Last year we had imported 14.57 lakh tonnes of edible oil. We are importing sugar and we are also importing coarse grains and all these things. How long will we go in for this? The rates are very high. Pulses have increased to 32.7 per

cent, cereals 10.8, vegetable specially potatoes and other things is as high as 53 per cent, onion 41.9 per cent, oil 21 per cent, groundnut 25 per cent, mustard oil 44 per cent. How are they going to supply the essential commodities to the common man at the cheaper rate? What are the methods? How are you going to control the prices?

For procurement of wheat also, they have raised the rates from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. The prevailing rates are Rs. 131 whereas when you give something to farmer, it is only Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per quintal. What is the rationale? Why is this discrimination? Why is there discrepancy? There are heavy demurrage charges, storage losses and other things. All these things you are adding to the cost of the essential commodities which will be a burden on the common man the consumer. Neither it is useful to the producer nor to the consumer. Somebody in the middle is eating away the vitals, putting the consumer and the producer to loss.

Increase in sugar is 15%. Sugar production is good this year. But enhancement per tonne is only 50 paise and we are importing sugar. We have 10 million tonnes capacity mills. But we are not making use of the sugar cane grown and we are importing. I urge the Minister to take necessary steps to produce more sugar.

When we come to mills, for modernisation purpose of rice, wheat and flour mills only a little amount has been provided. Will this amount be sufficient to meet our requirements? Is there any new technology developed. I would like to know whether the R & D Department under your Ministry is working properly, whether new techniques have been developed and whether the cost of this has been reduced. Even the per capita consumption of oil, pulses everything is far behind when compared to international average. When are we going to reach this level? Are you able to supply good nutrition to the people belonging to weaker sections and tribal areas? How are you going to face these challenges?

In respect of warehousing, there are many problems. There should be a uniform code for warehousing the goods of both essential commodities and other marketing materials.

When we talk of the public distribution, it is a general subject. Everybody can speak on this subject. For strengthening of the public distribution system you have opened 3.40 lakh outlets all over the country. Will these outlets be sufficient to distribute the essential commodities? With the help of the State Government you have to open more number of outlets, so that you can solve the unemployment problem also. There are many unemployed educated youth available in every village, in any nook and corner of this country. Either you yourself or the State Government have to take up this problem and employ the youths so that these schemes are monitored properly with the help of the vigilance and the good administrative cell.

Now I would come to the subject of horticulture. Last year we had an enactment about the processed food. In India we are producing as on date 58 million tonnes of fruits. We are extracting pulp of about 5.5 million tonnes. We are exporting to other countries as well. We are nearly getting Rs. 50 crores out of this export. We have to enhance this. Are we equivalent to other countries? Do we have sufficient technology that other countries have? We are exporting pulp. In between many growers, registered persons are actually harassing the farmers. They are not paying the farmers who are supplying fruits and who are extracting the pulp. They are not making payments. Why don't you help them? Why cannot you intervene in this? You can indigenise this also. You can replace the soft wings if you can increase the pulp with the latest technology, bottling it nicely and having marketing facilities. If you can develop these things, then only we can help this problem thereby encouraging the cultivators also. Cultivators will get good results, they will get good income. Where there is no water, where water sources are not available; there we can take up the horticulture programme. We can enhance the agricultural production. Then, we can get extra pulp. We can change the dietary habits of the common public. We can supply more nutritious food as required by the human body.

I once again request the hon. Minister to streamline the administration of Food Corporation of India. It has become a white elephant. I request the hon. Minister

to constitute a committee of this House to go into the working of the FCI.

There were many reports. Many people have been placed under suspension. Many inquiries were there. But there is nepotism. There is corruption; everything is there. About 7,000 low cadre employees are working in the FCI. They are put to harassment. Some people are taking advantage of other things. Employees are also facing the problems, which should be looked into sympathetically. Nepotism should be removed. There should be a permanent managing director, a permanent chairman, so that they can streamline the administration. I urge upon the Minister to constitute the House Committee to go into the working of the FCI.

I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to appoint a technical committee to go into the working of Food Corporation of India and to suggest suitable measures to revamp it.] (1)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct more rural godowns to store foodstuffs.] (2)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure of Food Corporation of India to minimise the storage losses.] (3)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure of Food Corporation of India to minimise demurrage losses in railways.] (4)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have proper "Save Grain Programme."] (5)

[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check malpractices in Food Corporation of India.] (6)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check the adulteration in foodstuffs.] (7)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check under-utilisation of the personnel available in the Food Corporation of India.] (8)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reduce the expenditure on Food Corporation of India establishments.] (9)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to minimise the imports of sugar, edible oils, and other foodstuffs.] (10)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up adequate number of food processing units.] (11)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate storage facilities for fruits, vegetables and fruit juices.] (12)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to export sufficient quantities of fruit juices, pickles and cooked foods.] (13)

"That the demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to streamline Public Distribution System.] (14)

"That the demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the quota of Sugar and edible oils to States.] (15)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open more outlets of retail shops under the Public Distribution System in the rural and tribal areas.] (16)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for effective and periodical checking of foodgrains stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India.] (17)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to remove Central Government's restriction on States for procuring more rice.] (18)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to bring down the prices of foodgrains and vegetables which have increased abnormally since March, 1988.] (19)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review the diminishing stocks of foodgrains with sugar-cane.] (20)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix up the price of sugarcane at Rs. 350 per tonne to give incentive to formers to grow more sugarcane.] (21)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to release more food-grains for distribution through National Rural Employment Programme.] (22)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reduce drastically the subsidy of Rs. 2000 crores to Food Corporation of India.] (23)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the installed capacity and utilisation of the fruit and vegetable processing industries.] (24)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to include more items of mass consumption under the Public Distribution System.] (25)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open more fair price shops in rural areas to make food-grains available to rural folk at their door-steps.] (26)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for effective enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986.] (27)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to educate the consumers about their rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and to take adequate steps to safeguard their rights.] (28)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for effective steps to reduce the import of edible oils.] (29)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure enough supply of pulses, vegetables and edible oils at reasonable rates through Public Distribution System.] (30)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to include fertilisers, pesticides and cooking gas under essential commodities so that the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act may be applied with regard to these commodities.] (31)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give vanaspati at ex-factory price to State Governments for sale to public through Public Distribution System.] (32)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide sufficient funds for rehabilitation/modernisation of all the old sugar mills particularly in Bihar and West Bengal.] (33)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri Syed Masudal Hossain]

[Need to maintain a steady supply of edible oils including the imported rapeseed oil as per monthly allotment for the Public Distribution System in West Bengal.] (35)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to maintain regular supply of wheat under NREP/RLEGP in West Bengal.] (36)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evolve a comprehensive programme for Public Distribution System all over the country.] (37)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to maintain regular supplies for Continuance of the Public Distribution System particularly in West Bengal.] (38)

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. This Ministry has really to perform mainly three types of roles. I will refer to those roles and express my views regarding the performance of this Ministry in that respect.

Public distribution system has to be looked after by this Ministry. With that system and with the other powers, which the Ministry has, it should also succeed in holding the price line of the essential commodities. This is the second role which this Ministry has to perform. The third role, according to me, which is also the most important, is the role to protect the consumers and protect their rights as consumers of this country.

As far as the public distribution system is concerned, no doubt, at present, there are about 3,40,000 fair price shops in this country. If we fix up the target as one fair price shop for 2,000 people, then also,

they fall short of this target. And at least four lakh fair price shops will have to be established in this country, if we want to achieve the target of one fair price shop for every 2,000 people.

I would request and urge upon the Government to take prompt steps to increase the number of fair price shops as early as possible. Through these shops only, the public distribution system can work. We can reach the nook and corner of the country with all the essential commodities which are required for a common man.

Another problem with respect to these fair price shops, which I would like to put before the Government is that, at present, the fair price shops have not become a viable proposition. As far as cities like Bombay are concerned, where we call them ration shops, nobody is now coming forward to take charge of any ration shop or to open a fair price shop. We call it ration shop in Bombay. Therefore, a re-thinking will have to be done in order to make these shops more viable. Some more margin will have to be allowed. Some more facilities will have to be given as far as Bombay is concerned. The question is with respect to the fair price shops and the shop premises which are not available in Bombay where there is large population. In this respect, re-thinking will have to be done and more and more fair price shops and ration shops will have to be encouraged and established. In view of the time which is at my command, I will not go into the details of this but I may urge upon the Government that production of bumper rabi crop may not generate a sense of complacency and we should still concentrate on these fair price shops as far as the whole country is concerned. The most important subject which prompted to speak on this is the rights of the consumers which are not properly protected at present by this Department. We passed the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and it came into force from 24th December 1986. I would like to know whether every State has established these Councils which contemplated under Section 7 of that Act and what is the state of the National Council which was supposed to be established under Section 5 of the Act ? I am told that the Councils which are formed are so unhealthy with the result that I do not think hardly any meeting are held by these

Councils and no purpose is being served by establishing these Councils. Therefore, I will urge upon this Government to look into the matter and to implement the provisions of this Consumer Protection Act, 1986 more carefully and with more vigour. As I was saying, the most important subject which I want to touch today is about the distribution of the contaminated Irish butter in the cities like Bombay and Delhi and it has been very serious, which the Government should take a very serious note of. The unfortunate accident took place in Ukraine, as far back as 25th April, 1986 with the result that the countries within that zone which had the radio-active fall out, the European economic community countries, recognising the intake of even lightly contaminated products, immediately banned the consumption of these articles, where we have been freely accepting by way of aid from the European community, with the result that there is a greater danger of cancer and other maladies by consumption of these articles. I am told, and I am sure that the Supreme Court has now decided and cleared, that there is no danger about the consumption of these articles. I would point out that in the first place, nothing has been decided by the Supreme Court as far as the consumption of Irish butter is concerned. They have expressed certain views but ultimately the whole writ petition has been dismissed or decided on the ground that the judicial proceedings of the nature initiated is not a proper remedy for determining of such matters and therefore, really speaking, the Supreme Court has not decided these matters, though they have expressed certain views.

Secondly, I would also like to point that in that matter also, free experts who were appointed by the Supreme Court had no knowledge about the technical subject which was before them.

The three experts which were appointed by the Supreme Court are, Shri P.K. Iyenger, Shri G.V.K. Rao and Shri M.G.K. Menon, though they were experts in their own ways, they were not specialists in the biological effects or medical toxicity of radiations and, therefore, really they were not competent to give opinion on this point as far as the bad affects of the consumption of this contaminated Irish butter is concerned. And, therefore, even though the Supreme

Court suo motu appointed them and the parties who appeared before the Supreme Court protested saying that they were not the real experts but the Supreme Court unfortunately did not uphold their contention. I would also point out here that 2 other experts having noble prizes have clearly stated that this is not the correct thing to consume. And, therefore, I would point out that Linus Pauling, a Noble Prize winner has clearly stated and I note every person is exposed to high energy radiation from cosmic rays to natural radioactivity. This exposure cause birth defects, cancer and other diseases. Additional exposure to high energy radiations increase the incidence of birth defects, cancer and other diseases approximately and in proportion to the added levels. I am sure that it is not true to say that the permissible levels of Cesium-137 and Strontium-90 mentioned in your letter are safe and harmless. This matter was referred to him and he has clearly stated this.

Another expert George Wald has also stated in his opinion that the simple reality is that no threshold exists for damaging effects of ionising radiation or radioactive materials injected or inspired. Any level may do some damage. More dose, more damage. From that point of view "every dose is an overdose." He further says that as far as so-called permissible levels of radiation are concerned, they compromise with the convenience. Government and business interests and economics super imposed on of the concern with health, "I would not be guided by them." So, the two experts having Nobel Prize have given opinion against this consumption. And, there has been also a resolution passed on 24th February, 1988 in the House of Commons of U.K., where 59 M.P.s. have protested against the distribution of this and they have stated that this House notes with anxiety, reports that a consignment of dairy products was recently returned from Mexico to Ireland after the Mexico authorities claimed that these were contaminated with the radioactivity notably with Cesium-137 in all probability of fall outs following the Chernobyle nuclear plant accident. Further notes that similar claims for radioactive contamination of EEC dairy products have been made in Ghana, India, Brazil, Ethiopia, Somalia, etc. Therefore, it calls

[Shri Sharad Dighe]

on her Majesty Government to initiate an investigation to ensure that no radioactive contaminated food products have been or will be shipped from the United Kingdom to the Third World countries or from other European countries to the United Kingdom to ascertain what has happened to all such contaminated foodstuffs and to report its findings to the House at the earliest date.

So, this resolution has been passed by the House of Commons on 24th February, 1988. We are not taking a note of all these experts' opinions and all these actions which are being taken by other countries and therefore, I would urge upon the Government to take a very serious note of this and not to distribute or stop distributing this contaminated Irish butter either at Bombay or Delhi. Or at any place as far as this country is concerned.

18 00 hrs.

Lastly, I will point out that it is the right of a consumer to choose. Therefore, the demand is at least to label them so that I as a consumer will decide whether I should consume this contaminated butter or not. At least that right should be given to the consumers when we are trying to protect the consumers' right. And if that right is denied then I will say that you are denying a fundamental right to a consumer to say that I am not going to consume this. Let me know what butter you are supplying. But according to the Supreme Court Judgement I think the Government is following a very wrong precedent, a very wrong practice—even in not labelling, this Irish butter as Irish butter so that the consumer may choose and have a right of choosing whether he should consume it or not.

Lastly with all the force at my command, I would urge upon the Government to ban immediately this distribution of Irish butter contaminated in this country completely.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : If the House agrees we may extend the sitting of today upto 7.P.M.

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time of the House is extended upto 7.00 P.M. Shri Syed Hossain.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while presenting their Annual Report for this year, the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies have given a pat on its own back. They have stated in the first page of their Annual Report that :

[English]

"The biggest challenge of the year for the Department of Civil Supplies came in the form of a severe drought in a large part of the country. Some other parts were affected by floods. With the cooperation of Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, State Governments, their agencies and the people, smooth and uninterrupted supply of essential commodities was maintained in all parts of the country."

[Translation]

But this claim of theirs is totally baseless. In this connection, I want to quote from a journal :

[English]

In the *Yojana* Magazine of March 16-31, 1988, in Page 6, it is mentioned and I quote :

"Prof. Atmanand : The per capita availability of foodgrains is only a paper exercise, for the actual availability to the people in the state is much lower. It is estimated that more than 50 per cent of the people live below the poverty line, and income distributions are so uneven that only the top few avail the most what is available."

[Translation]

This is true that the country has witnessed an unprecedented flood and drought this year. As a result, the agricultural labourers did not get work in the villages and the price index also rose considerably. The Government has promised in its 20-Point Programme that a fair price shop will

be opened in every village. But contrary to it, you have raised the price of rice, wheat and sugar under the Public Distribution System. On the other hand, the increase allowed in the procurement price payable to the farmers has been so small that it did not result in any benefit to them. It is true that the production has gone down considerably but procurement has also been less due to the low procurement price fixed by the Government. As the Government opened very few outlets under the Public Distribution System and also raised the price of sugar, the availability of these essential commodities to the weaker sections of the people and those living below the poverty line in the villages become difficult. I do not want to go into the production figures. Everybody knows that production this year has been very low and procurement has also been less as mentioned in this year's Annual Report. But at the same time, I would like to point out that your system of procurement is also not proper. This is no secret that shortage of pulses and edible oils is more acute. This fact has been admitted in your Annual Report at page 27.

[English]

"(vi) In view of high prices of pulses and its tight position, Government has reduced the stock limits of pulses recently. Earlier the stock/limits for oil seeds and edible oils had also been reduced."

[Translation]

Thus the Government does not want to increase the procurement of pulses, edible oils, rice and gram for making these commodities available in the villages at cheap rates.

With regard to sugar, I would like to say that while the price of sugarcane has been increased only by 50 paise per quintal, the price of sugar has been raised by 25 paise per kg with effect from 1st January. At the same time, I would also like to say that though in the wake of fall in the production of sugar, the Government does import sugar from foreign countries, but it does not have any intention to distribute this sugar at cheap rates through the Public Distribution System. A large portion of imported sugar is sold to the

traders in the open market. I would also like to avail of this opportunity to appeal to the hon. Minister that the number of sugar factories in West Bengal is very small. One sugar mill is in Ram Nagar and the other is located in Ahmedpur. Another sugar mill which is located in Beldanga in my district is lying closed since long. If some money is made available by the Sugar Industry Development Board under the rehabilitation scheme, this mill can be re-opened and production of sugar can also be increased there.

This is true that there is shortage of edible oils in the country. But this shortage notwithstanding, you will be surprised to know that the average per capita per annum consumption of edible oils in India is 6.72 kilograms as against the world average of 11 kilograms. So low is the average consumption of edible oils in our country. You know that in 1986-87 the production of edible oils in the country was 34 lakh tonnes and our imports were of the order of 15 lakh tonnes. Thus, the Government had to depend heavily on imports. But I want to point out that we cannot imagine the large scale irregularities which were committed in the distribution of imported edible oils. As the indigenous production of edible oils fell, the quantity of imports also fell although at the end of the last year when there was an uproar, the Government increased the quantity of import. Prior to that, very small quantity of edible oil was being imported. A large portion of imported edible oil is supplied by the Government to the vegetable oil mills. To whom do you supply this edible oil and what benefit do you get from those to whom it is supplied? You have imposed levy on sugar mills. My submission is that similar levy should also be imposed on the oil mills, which are producing vegetable oils.

I would also like to make a submission before you about the I.S.I. mark. It is obligatory on the part of the edible oil mills to get I.S.I. mark for their brand. Before 1985, when the price of edible oil was Rs. 15 per kg., the fee for the I.S.I. certificate was Rs. 30 per tonne. This fee was reduced to Rs. 20 with effect from 1st October, 1985 and subsequently to Rs. 12 w.e.f. 1st August, 1986. Going by the

[Shri Syed Masudal Hossain]

earlier ratio between the certification fee and the price of edible oil, the certification fee at present should have been Rs. 50 per tonne, but you have reduced it to Rs. 12 per tonne.

Why have you done so? The Government is giving Rs. 1 crore 52 lakhs as grant to the I.S.I. to enable them to offset their recurring losses. On the one hand, you are reducing the certification fee and on the other, the Government is giving grant.

There is one more point which I want to raise before the House. The Government has entrusted the responsibility of increasing the production of edible oils to the N.D.D.B. which has set up their projects in 16 districts but none of these projects relates to vegetable oil. I want to present before you the picture of my district. The production of oilseeds in my district in 1978-79 was 23,000 tonnes whereas in 1987-88 it was 7275 tonnes. The yield per hectare in this district is higher than the national average by one quintal. Against the national average of 611 the average in my district is 735. There is a mill named Bhagirathi Cooperative Mill in my district Murshidabad. If the production of this mill is added to the total production of the district, I am not sure whether the Central Government will give any incentive. There is a vast scope for increasing production of edible oil and for bringing more area under cultivation.

With regard to storage, I have to say that you do not have your own godowns even today. Whatever little storage capacity you have got of your own is totally inadequate. The result is that you have to store the commodities in hired godowns and your officers like this arrangement. You can see that the losses due to shortage in handling which stood at 20.71 crores in 1971-72 have increased to Rs. 115.60 crores in the year 1986-87. It means that total losses in F.C.I. godowns during the last 16 years amount to Rs. 1,222.81 crores. All this is shown against shortage in handling but the fact is that rotten foodgrains are purchased.

Your department is not fulfilling the objective of the Public Distribution System. The aim before your department was to remove the middlemen. It was hoped that when the Government would buy the foodgrains direct from the farmer, the latter would get a higher price. But when we go through the Annual Report, we find that in 1985-86 an amount of Rs. 21 crores was paid to the middlemen in Punjab and Haryana alone for procurement of foodgrains. When such a large amount has been paid to the middlemen as commission, what is the necessity of your department?

In the end, I want to make one or two submissions about West Bengal. West Bengal is a deficit State, you all know it. The total requirements of the State per month are : rice 1.5 lakh tonnes, wheat 1.3 lakh tonnes, sugar 40 thousand tonnes and edible oil 15 thousand tonnes. In regard to edible oil, a tussle is going on with your department for the last one year for the clearance of backlog, but without any result. The most astonishing of all things, which I am compelled to raise in the House today is that we had sent a telegram to your department to meet the shortage of wheat in Murshidabad district during the months of January-February. We were given assurance that wheat would be supplied. But what do the 'Action Taken Report' of your Consultative Committee says.

[English]

For March 1988 four wheat rakes have been planned for Berhampur Court which will be despatched as and when the Eastern Railway relaxes the restrictions. At present the movement of for entire West Bengal is restricted.

[Translation]

This is beyond my comprehension. Has this restriction on the movement of wheat, sugar and rice to West Bengal been imposed by your department or by the Railways? Even if it is by the Railways, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to remove it. If it has been imposed by your department, there cannot be anything more shameful than this.

In the end, I would request you to give some money to the Beldanga Sugar

Mill under the rehabilitation scheme. In order to increase the production of the Bhagirathi Co-operative Mill, the matter may be taken up with the N.D.D.B. The exemption from I.S.I. certification given to the vegetable oil industry should be enquired into. The Government should also try to find out as to why the restrictions on the movement of rice, wheat and sugar to West Bengal have been imposed. I hope the hon. Minister will reply to all these points.

With these words I oppose the Demands for Grants and conclude my submission.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. The efficiency with which the hon. Minister has handled the work of this Ministry is praiseworthy. The country was affected by droughts and excessive rainfall and inspite of that, fair price shops and depots were opened in the rural areas for the distribution of foodgrains to provide relief to the people. The hon. Prime Minister has stated on the floor of the House that the people will not be allowed to die of hunger and accordingly we ensured that grain depots are set up everywhere. Foodgrains stocks were sent all over the country which provided relief to the people. In every region of the country whether the plains, the hill areas, or even the rural and the urban areas, appropriate arrangements were made for the distribution of essential commodities. We have also successfully dealt with a challenging situation created by one of the worst drought country. So far as the enhancement of agricultural production is concerned, it will be enhanced only in case a good rainfall is there. We cannot fight with nature. If the monsoons fail it is unlikely for us to achieve our target.

But I would like to congratulate the Government, especially the Ministry of Food for its tackling the situation very intelligently. Even after 40 years of independence there are places in the hill regions where foodgrains are transported by goats and sheep. There is no road in those areas and horses and mules cannot reach there. There are many such remote areas in Himachal Pradesh where people take the help of goats and sheep for the transportation of foodgrains. Pangi and Kinnaur in

Himachal Pradesh are very remote places. In Uttar Pradesh Garhwal is also such an area. But there is not a single place in the country where foodgrains have not reached. It is possible that the State Government or officials might have indulged in malpractices. The State Government is also responsible for this. There have been instances where the Central Government allocated funds and the State Government misused them by providing the benefits to its favourite people. This is what is happening in West Bengal. In West Bengal only those people who are favourite of State Government get foodgrains, and the other people do not get. They have a feeling that only their party workers should flourish and all other parties should lose their existence. This is the reason that the people of that State mostly take to agitation. They do not undertake farming and due to this the production falls. The production falls down in the mills because workers resort to agitations and do less work. In view of this no progress is made. The red flags command authority in the State and the people are instigated and nothing else. The Government of India should pay attention towards it and keep a close watch on those people who create obstacles in the path of progress of the country and take commissions and want that people should die of starvation. The hon. Minister comes after having been elected. But efforts should be made to tighten the inspecting machinery so that it may work properly. I would like to draw your attention towards one thing. It is a fact that we should get the remunerative price for our produce. People producing wheat, rice and potato get remunerative prices of their products. But the people producing fruits in hill regions do not get remunerative prices for their products. The Government should, therefore, formulate a policy for them so that they may get support price for their products like apple, potato and pear. The hon. Prime Minister is aware that it is the main source of income for the people living in hill regions and their economic condition is dependent on the prices of apple and potato. The rats eat away foodgrains worth crores of rupees in the godowns. Certain Government officials also indulge in pilferage.

In the railway stations the railway employees are always on the look out for a

[Shri K. D. Sultanpuri]

chance to make pilferage of coal. Even if each of them pilfer 2 to 3 kilograms of coal, they accumulate huge quantity. The Government will have to keep a watch on these activities. It is alleged that foodgrain supplied by rural areas to cities are adulterated with rubbish. It is because no action is being taken against them. Our opposition parties vehemently criticise that people are being supplied sub-standard food articles. When we supply good quality of foodgrains it is alleged that the quantity is less, when they themselves supply, they say that the food articles are adulterated. Nobody can make them happy. Even God cannot make them happy. There has been no rainfall this year in the States governed by the opposition. These people have brought everything in the country to standstill. I would like that at least for the sake of God, opposition people should extend their co-operation to our scientists and technical personnel who are engaged in research work for raising the agriculture production in the country. They should appreciate them so that we may get good yield by dry farming. I would like to submit that Government should monitor the distribution of foodgrains in the States where it is not done properly.

The practice of taking godowns on rent should be done away with. This causes huge loss of money. Instead of taking godowns on rent, Department of food should make arrangements for 2-4 godowns at every central place. The hon. Prime Minister is very kind to us who selected the Food Minister from among the MPs of Himachal Pradesh. The hon. Food Minister has thorough knowledge in this regard. Through you, Sir, I would request him to construct more and more godowns in Himachal Pradesh, hill regions of Uttar Pradesh, and all other hill regions like of Nagaland, Mizoram etc. so that foodgrains could be preserved at less expenses.

I would like to submit further that no depot should be allotted to any shopkeeper. The businessmen try to keep everything under their control. Their brothers or other relatives happen to be in Government service and working as Inspectors. They connive so cleverly with each other that the country's progress comes to a standstill. People start blaming Department of Food

for this. I therefore, request that no Government depot should be given to a shopkeeper. Rather these should be given to poor people, Harijans and tribal people. In the cities also there are people belonging to the weaker sections of the society. I had been to Tamilnadu yesterday. I saw there for myself that poor fisher men are living in the streets and they do not derive any benefit from our schemes. They have to stand in queue before big businessmen and face a number of other difficulties. They do not get their due share of foodgrains. The Government should, therefore, pay proper attention towards it and ensure that the people, whose standard of living the Government want to improve get the benefits of various schemes launched by it.

So far as I know, a number of middlemen have been engaged in Punjab in the procurement of foodgrains. The Government should exercise strict vigil on them. The Government should find out the officer who appoints these middlemen and the manner in which he takes commission. I demand that action should be taken against those people who take profit in foodgrains. It is only due to this malpractice, the people living in the cities, poor people and people belonging to the weaker sections of the society do not get their due share of foodgrains and suffer. These middlemen have been sucking their blood. In this connection I would like to cite the example of one Mr. Jain who used to mix beef tallow in ghee in Bhatinda. He was apprehended and arrested. An enquiry was held against him. But it appears that it has no effect on him. On the other hand there are reports that the country is experiencing shortage of dalda. Only such people are behind such shortages. In this connection I would like to request the Government to make the dalda ghee production licence-free as in the case of setting up of flour mills. Anybody who wishes to produce dalda ghee may do so without a licence. This will help produce required quantity of dalda ghee in our country. People have made it a practice to take commission at the time of issuing licences. This restriction on manufacturing ghee must be removed immediately.

The Government propose to hand over Dalda Ghee Industry to the co-operative sector or to the State Governments. There are proposals to ask the State Governments

to manage the Dalda Ghee Industry and run it. In this connection I would like to urge the Government that it is well and good if the Government can run the industry itself, or otherwise it should be handed over to the private entrepreneurs.

This Industry cannot be set up in West Bengal. Even if it is set up, it will be difficult to manage it. It is because the trade union is very strong there which will not allow the industry to run.

The rich people should have a free hand to manufacture dalda ghee and set up dalda ghee industry so that those mills could meet the requirement of dalda ghee in the country or at least they can make efforts in that direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to express my views. The hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies is sitting here. I would like to request him to pay special attention to the various suggestions made by me and ensure that people producing apple, potato and small seeds get support price. I oppose the views of the opposition and express my support to the Demands of Grants of this Ministry.

[*English*]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a few remarks on the working of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. Sir, I have great personal respect to the hon. Minister who I know is very honest. But the system under which his Ministry is working has completely failed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Panigrahi, don't question like this. What do you want to say ? I know the procedure and I know whom to call.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I wanted to know when my name will be called.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told you that one Member will speak from this side and one Member from the other side.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has completely failed to hold the price line. There has been continuous price rise in all

essential items. Of late, there has been a phenomenal rise in price. It has touched the highest mark according to their own figures. When we ask the Government to say about the price rise, they always give us only the percentage of price rise in respect of the whole-sale index. But they never give the price index in retail price. If you take the price rise in retail market I do not want to repeat once again what my friend Shri Raghuma Reddy said—it is really impregnable and it has become more difficult for the poor and middle class to make their livelihood. I am not exaggerating. I am sure all of you know that if the poor and middle-class cannot make both the ends meet, what about the 40% of the people who are below the poverty-line who cannot have even a square meal a day. We should think of them. Sir, we know that almost all the essential items right from wheat, rice to soap, from Dhal to mustard oil, everything has increased by 10% or 20% or even 50% in the case of edible oil. I do not think it is the problem of the Government alone. I say it is a national problem. We should put our heads together and solve the problem and see what is to be done. I was very much shocked when our Prime Minister said in Madras yesterday that giving subsidised rice by the non-Congress Government in South is a populist measure. He ridiculed that. I do not really understand why the Prime Minister said so because helping the poorest of the poor by giving rice at subsidised cost cannot be considered as a populist measure.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : On a point of order, Sir. They are misquoting the Prime Minister, what the hon. Prime Minister has told is a reality. He said that certain State Governments are making political capital by selling rice at a cheaper rate out of the rice made available to them by the Central Government to gain popularity. Whereas the public Distribution System... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : How much you are giving, how much the States are giving.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : They are not giving.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no.
Let the Minister reply.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are mistaken, the Minister will reply..

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, he is unnecessarily casting aspersions on the State Governments.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Sir, let me finish first.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I have not yielded. Let the Minister reply, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister will take care of it. Don't worry.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, What the Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Governments are doing is for the poorest of the poor.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : The Prime Minister said that the plan expenditure is being cut by the State Governments and they are gaining cheap popularity.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, he is coming in the way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I am not allowing any one. Please take your seat. He is there. Why are you doing this ?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I think what they are doing is, they are giving at subsidised rates for the poorest of the poor. Is it wrong, Sir ? And they are continuing to do that. The Government of India itself is giving at subsidised rate... (*Interruptions*). The Government of India itself is giving at subsidised rates for the tribal people. Is it a populist measure ? Is it to be condemned ? Of course, probably on returning, the Prime Minister welcomed the mid-day meal scheme of Tamil Nadu. On the one hand he has ridiculed the non-Congress governments for that, and on the other hand, leaving the Madras city, he has welcomed that scheme.

He said that it will continue. So, Sir, it is really paradoxical, we don't understand. But I think the Government should appreciate the action of the State Governments who are giving foodgrains for the green card holders in our State at the subsidised rate. Sir, you are giving Rs. 2000 as subsidy for the foodstuffs, Is it to be condemned ? So, Sir, I am sure the hon. Prime Minister will see that whatever wrong impression that he has created in the minds of the public is removed because it certainly hurts the people. Certainly, the State Governments should not be criticised, they should continue to help them because you know the purchasing power of the people is very low. You have got food stocks. You had 24 million tonnes of foodgrains as on 1.1.1987. Now, of course, it has come to 14 million tonnes. Why do you have bufferstock ? Is it because you are growing plenty ? It is not so because many of the people cannot purchase it. If every one purchases it, do you think that you will have that stock ? You will have to produce much more. That is the position.

Now, Sir, I will make only a few suggestions. I want the hon. Minister to note how to cut down the price line. It is not only in respect of foodstuffs. What about other prices ? Even the prices of drugs are high. Of course, you are not in charge of drugs. Even the prices of soaps are high for the poor and middle class people. The Finance Minister says that he has given so many incentives for the mass consumption industry, but the benefit has not been passed on to the consumer. Everything is absorbed by the industry itself. So' it is necessary that Finance Ministry, Industry Ministry and your Ministry, should coordinate. All of you should coordinate and see that at least the existing prices should be continued at least for one year. That is not happening.

Another suggestion I would like to make is, I think that as an experienced legislator, I said it on the floor of the Legislature of Karnataka also—I represent an urban constituency, but I have studied the prices. While fixing the prices, I find between the procurement price and the issue price the gap is very wide. If I remember rightly, even the Prime Minister in one of his addresses asked the scientists and the

economists to see that it is reduced. That is very high and a special study must be made about this. I don't have the data at present in my hands, but it is necessary that it should be reduced. The cost is too high, it should be reduced. You should always think and see that the priceline must be held, all steps must be taken for that. With pomp and publicity, we passed many laws last year pertaining to consumer protection. There are many laws with regard to the food articles. You have got the Prevention of Blackmarket Act, Anti-corruption Act, Prevention of Adulteration of Essential Commodities Act and the latest Consumer Protection Act. I am sorry people are not conscious of the consumer movement. That has to grow. You have not made use of the media. It is absolutely necessary that the radio and the newspapers and Door Darshan are made use of to see that the people become conscious of their consumer rights. It is absolutely necessary and I am sure the hon. Minister will see to it. No follow-up action is taken at all. Of course, the State Government can do it but it is the responsibility of the Central Government because the management of the food economy is the responsibility of the Department of Food and the Ministry of Food. I request the hon. Minister to see that Consumer Protection Councils at the district level, State level and national level are formed immediately. How many States have formed those Councils? How many of them have been punished under the Act? It has completely failed. Not only Government but everybody is responsible for it. I request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting of the Food Ministers immediately after the Session and tell them that it is their bounden duty and it is the duty of any civilised Government to see that the people get quality food supplies at reasonable rates. It is the primary responsibility of the Government to tell the people about it. Adulteration of food stuffs is continuing. You do not get quality. You say that you have got some quality analysing centres. The whole of India got only three centres. For a big country like this, for the food-grains which you procure, how many centres are there for analysis? It is not sufficient. I request the hon. Minister to see that stringent measures are taken. They are very necessary even now. If you take the statistics in the entire country, I find

that the number of those punished under the Essential Commodities Act or the Food Adulteration Act or the Consumer Protection Act can be counted only on one's fingers. How many have been prosecuted? How many cases have been filed? How many were convicted? It is negligible. It is not taken seriously by anybody.

You must ensure that the public distribution system works effectively. You must see that some more articles of mass consumption like dal, soap, baby food and other essential articles necessary for the poor are brought under the public distribution system. These are essential for the poor and the middle-class.

In Karnataka, we have got Akshaya Store. They sell clean and packed articles. They have become more popular. The Civil Supplies Corporation are running these depots. We should encourage it. You must encourage and see that many of the articles like wheat, flour and dals and pulses everything are cleanly packed. It may be a little more costlier but it will be very much liked by the consumers.

Finally, the administered prices. As a matter of fact, the sugar production has been a record last year. It is 87 lakh tonnes. You have increased only about Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 for the cane grower. But, you have increased by 25 paise a kilo which is very high for levy sugar. That is wrong. You also increased the administered price of rice. The Government itself is doing this. You have taken from the buffer-stock. Buffer-stock is old stock. What was the reason for you to increase the administered prices? It is very bad, particularly on the eve of the Budget, you have increased the administered prices.

Sir, Finally, I would request, on behalf of my State about which you are very well aware, one thing. Sir, we need only another 5000 tonnes more of rice because we are feeding the Green-Card holders. You have given us 55000 tonnes for which we are thankful to you. You have been very kind enough to all the States. I know of that. I would further request you to see that it is increased.

Sir, Palm-oil is becoming a mirage. Demand is there almost in every state for this. It is absolutely very necessary for

[Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer]

the people. About kerosene oil, I would like to say that what happens is at times it becomes evaporated and actually it disappears from the market. Therefore, you should have proper check.

I am sure that this is a very important subject. But, unfortunately, at the fag end of the day we are debating this subject. For want of time, I could not give any more suggestions. I would like to stress here that your aim should be to maintain the price-line. No further increase should be there. When we speak on the Demands for Grants of this Food and Civil Supplies Ministry during the next budget debate, there should not be any increase in the prices. You must see to that. That is very important. You must also see to it that the PDS is extended all over the country, particularly in the rural parts and the people should get good quality stuff at time, in-time. You must see to it that nobody starves and dies out of hunger and see that the subsidised supply of such items continue even though the purchasing capacity of the people is not there.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate. I am sorry, if I had hurt you. You made some observations about me. When you called somebody from the other side, I thought probably—whether it was correct or by mistake—that that was the turn of this side. Anyway, I thank you. According to the procedure, three Members generally are called from this side and one Member from the other side. Now I come to the main subject.

Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. I congratulate the Government for managing the food economy of this country nicely in a very difficult year. We had the worst drought of the century and in that background it is very difficult to ensure food supply to all sections of the people in required measures and at reasonable prices and also to maintain the price line. Because of the sincere efforts of the Government, the prices have not risen

beyond a certain level considering the seriousness of the situation. There has been inflation and the inflation has not touched the double-digit figure. Sir, you know, in the 1979-80 drought; there was an inflation, as high as, of 22 per cent. Compared to that, the Government really deserves to be thanked and congratulated.

Sir, the responsibility as well as the duty of the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry is two-fold, as it seems to me. It has to help the consumers, particularly the poor consumers by way of supply of consumer goods including foodgrains and other things like oil, sugar and all those things. There is a list of items. At the same time, it has also to help the producers, the farmers with a minimum price which is ensured to them. When there is a surplus year, really the situation becomes otherwise. There is complaint from the peasantry that they are harassed and they are not given the minimum procurement price, floor price with rampant distress sale. When there is a drought, really the Government faces a difficult situation in the matter of supply of foodgrains. Therefore, Sir, this will indicate how serious the situation is. The distribution of foodgrains reached a new record level of 18.37 million tonnes in 1987 upto October as against 17.60 million tonnes last year. Upto October it was 18.37 million tonnes and from October onwards it was a more difficult period. And this difficult period will continue upto the next harvest. If God wills and if there is a good monsoon, there will be a good crop, and after the harvest only, the situation will improve. Therefore, the foodgrain supply will have to be continued. The stock of foodgrains as on 1-1-1988 was 14.14 million tonnes as against 23.63 million tonnes on the same day last year. This means that the demand is higher and the procurement is lower this time. I will give an example also. In Orissa, in 1987-88 the procurement of rice has been as low as 33.2 thousand metric tonnes as against 123.1 thousand metric tonnes in 1986-87 and 139.6 thousand metric tonnes in 1985-86. So, that State is also very severely affected by drought. The Department's responsibility is to procure foodgrains, to store them and also to supply them to the State agencies.

As regards procurement, what is the duty? The duty is to mop up procurement,

to go for higher procurement, procurement on a massive scale, on a large scale, in an easy year, in a comfortable year, and keep the foodgrains under proper conditions, in safe custody, so that they will not be destroyed. Because of poor godown facilities, quite a lot of foodgrains get destroyed. That is our experience. Therefore, it is necessary to procure foodgrains and store them under proper conditions for release in difficult years. There are certain categories of people, poor consumers, who have to be provided foodgrains even in a good year, and in a bad year, naturally, the pressure is more, the demand is quite challenging and we have to meet that. Because there was a stock of more than 23 million tonnes—sometimes 28 million tonnes and sometimes 30 million tonnes—we did not have any anxiety; without going in for import from abroad, we could manage the situation. But that has gone down now. I would like to know whether for the rest of the difficult period also we can manage with whatever we have or we are going in for some imports. Now, what is the lesson of this year? When there is a surplus crop, bumper crop, we have to mop up procurement; we have to go for procurement on a large scale—that will help the producers also to get the minimum price—and store the foodgrains under proper conditions for supply during emergencies.

About procurement, I have a few suggestions to make. The procurement price in respect of paddy is Rs. 150 per quintal. This is not adequate, this is not sufficient. The cultivators are still aggrieved. The consumers are also suffering under inflation. Now, there has been a price rise in respect of other commodities which the cultivators are depending on. This rise is not at all proportionate. That is one thing.

Secondly, between procurement price and issue price there is a big gap. I would like the Government to apply their mind to this. If the procurement price is Rs. 150, then the issue price is almost double—sometimes more than Rs. 275 or something like that. There is an element of subsidy. But the recovery percentage is 66 or something like that. But it can go as high as 82 per cent. That is what is happening (exactly in Japan, the recovery percentage from paddy to rice is more than 80 per cent. Here also, in

modern mills, it will be above 70 per cent. But how is it that in Government records, it is as low as 66 per cent? There is a lot of wastage on this. Naturally, the economy has to be gone through in it and an expert committee should be appointed to go into this. If for Rs. 150, we have one quintal of paddy then how is it that for one quintal of rice, it costs above Rs. 250? It should not be that much.

Again, this transport charges. If this operation is done properly and wherever there is procurement if it is kept nearby, then this cost will be lessened. That also should be done. Now what is done is that from hundreds of miles from the interior place, foodgrains or paddy is brought to mills, towns etc., and from there it is again sent to distant places. Something should be done about that.

And again, about quality, I would also request that Government should arrange procurement, not only in the form of paddy but also in the form of rice. There is some provision which is very meagre. By that farmers will be benefited.

I will come to quality. When we release, sometimes, corrupt businessmen indulge in all these types of adulteration. I would tell you one thing. This FCI stands for Food Corporation of India. But jocularly—because there is rampant corruption—sometimes it is referred to as 'Food Corruption of India.' I tell you, in some places, not less than Rs. 10 is demanded by the agents for releasing a bag from the FCI godowns. There are so many things. And if you insist for weighment of sugar bags, they never do it. I do not know whether people in the highest level, at the helm of affairs know it. No sugar bag is weighed when it is released from the FCI godowns. It is our experience.

As regards sugar, I will give some points. This is a good year from the point of production of sugarcane. We have this double pricing of sugar and partial control in the matter of sugar. Government should consider it whether it should be continued or not. Since now the position is comfortable, wherever there is double pricing policy and partial control, that becomes very congenial atmosphere for corruption. So, we have two kinds of sugar and the colour is also the same. Sometimes, the same

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

retailer deals with both these things. When there is free levy sugar, the price is more. It requires strict control.

Now I come to FCI. About the Procurement, in Punjab etc., it is done departmentally. But in Orissa, procurement is actually done through miller agents through the businessman. That should be done directly by the department.

19.00 hrs.

Now, regarding the public distribution system, it should be widened, it should be expanded. I would suggest that Panchayat and cooperatives should be encouraged to man the public distribution system as far as possible so that the possibility of black-marketing is reduced considerably. In that matter there should also be a provision of bank finance to these institutions. Although they are willing, they don't have money to handle this business. When Panchayats or cooperatives are not coming forward, then the unemployed educated youths should be given preference with bank financing support.

I will now come to my own State problems. During the months of January, February, March and April, although the State Government demanded 40000 metric tonnes of rice—this is a very difficult year and I gave you the figures that the procurement is only 33000 metric tonnes as against more than 100000 metric tonnes in the previous years. As against this demand, the quantity released was about 20000 metric tonnes. For the month of May it is increased to 25000 metric tonnes. The State Government wants 50000 metric tonnes of rice per Month for the rest of this difficult period till October. The Government should consider this request.

The Orissa Government wanted to purchase rice in the open market. The Karnataka State Corporation came forward to sell rice to Orissa. But the quota for the Karnataka Government from the Centre is higher! Judged by any standard, going on the basis of population, they are getting much more than what Orissa is getting. See the peculiarity of the situation! There the Food Corporation was ready to sell rice to Orissa Government.

Now they are getting higher allocation from the Centre,

As regards palm oil, Orissa was getting 4500 metric tonnes earlier. Now it is drastically reduced to 500 metric tonnes, with 1000 metric tonnes of rapessed oil which is not popular. The earlier level of supply of 4500 metric tonnes should be restored.

We have a very good modern FCI mill at Hirakud. That is now defunct. That is going vacant. There is no "business" at all going on for the last several years. Why the FCI is not having any activity there? Why are they not going into procurement directly and see that the mills are operating? Otherwise they should sell it. Why should they sell it; they should run it properly. FCI mill workers are there. There is a Supreme Court judgement also that in instalment as early as possible they should departmentalise this.

These are some suggestions. I want to congratulate the Government for they have managed the food economy quite well and they are trying hard. About the consumer movement we have passed a legislation about consumer protection council. The country actually requires a strong consumer movement which can be built with public support. With the social workers coming forward, it is not the endeavour of the Government of India only. Afterall the Government of India has to function through the States. It is a dual responsibility. They procure and supply to the States. The rest of the things is to be done by the State Government.

I again emphasize that what the Prime Minister has stated is right. In the food front when we have scarcity if some State Governments try to resort to populist measures that won't do, that won't solve the problem. They have to think of programmes like irrigation, putting up dams etc., so that production is stepped up. That will solve the problem.

With these words I support the demands for grants and request the Government to consider all the points that I have highlighted here.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies for the year 1988-89. I would like to speak about three major problems which are faced by this department. Firstly the public distribution system, secondly the price rise and thirdly the problem of consumers protection. In addition to that I would also like to mention about the achievements of the corporation.

At the outset I would like to say that quota of wheat under the public distribution system in Rajasthan has been increased for the last two months which has provided great relief to the people. In Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts which are worst affected by drought, 10 kg. of wheat per head is being given instead of 5 kg. In this connection I would like to say that in Adivasi areas wheat is supplied at the rate of Rs. 1.64 per kg. but drought condition in our area is even worst than the Adivasi areas. Recently a study team visited that area, so you can get information from them or you can ask information from the State Chief Minister or you can yourself visit the area to see that the people living there have lost their purchasing power. At present they are unable to purchase wheat at the rate of Rs. 2.24 per kg. Though the Government has fixed a quota of 10 kg. wheat per head but the people are not in a position to purchase even that much wheat. The main reason behind it is the unemployment at a very large scale. In a family of ten members there is only one earning hand who earns Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 per day. Under such circumstances how can one purchase so much wheat. Therefore, it would be a great help to the people if wheat is provided to them on the same rate as is provided in Adivasi areas. You may select some districts for this purpose which are worst affected by drought and this subsidy may be withdrawn after 30th September 1988 because by then Kharif crop will be ready. It is a critical time and every possible assistance should be rendered to the affected people on humanitarian ground. We seek your assistance only for coming few critical months and we must get it.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : The hon. Minister should himself go there.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : The hon. Minister should go for himself and assess the situation. At present wheat is being supplied there but as requested by the Chief Minister and I also would like to say that millet which is our staple food should be supplied there. It would provide great relief to the people. We like millet and it also contains more calories than wheat. Millet should be procured from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh or from any other State and be supplied there at a cheap rate. We are passing through a grim situation of drought and any assistance rendered at this critical time would give new life to the people who are going into the jaws of death. Infact the prices have gone up but it is unavoidable because of the drought situation. The hike in respect of essential items is too much. The farmers eat bread with onion because under the prevailing conditions what else they can eat. It has been told that there has been a 45 per cent increase in the wholesale price of onion but actually the prices would be doubled in the market. The price of potato has also been doubled. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that in drought affected areas onion and potato should be made available at subsidised rates. If you do not subsidise these items what the people would eat because the prises of pulses are also very high. I, myself have seen the people taking their meals with Chilli as a result of which they have lost their working energy too. Therefore, such assistance must be provided to them. I would also like to say about the buffer stock. There was a question listed for today on this subject. It was told by you on 1st March, 1988 that one crore and thirty lakh metric tonnes of foodgrain were there in the buffer stock but in April 1988 it has been reduced to even less than one crore metric tonnes. Buffer stock is must, otherwise it would lead to price rise and we would have to import foodgrains from other countries. There is no other alternative. The Government should have atleast two crores metric tonnes of foodgrain in its reserve stock. Wheat and rice must be there in the stock which is at present not in your stock in sufficient quantity. Therefore, immediate arrangement should be made to stock these items. Wheat and maize should be imported because they are essential to save the life of the people in difficult time. Generally I

is a fact that even after allotment made by the Centre, the States did not lift their quota. You may take the instance of wheat, rice, sugar, anything you like. Inspite of that the State Governments indulge in propaganda in their States which is baseless. I definitely remember that the Government of West Bengal did not lift several commodities allocated to them by the Centre. If you want, I can furnish the figures, our hon. Minister will give the figures. When something is sent at state level and some problem arises then we have to become practical about it and then the question of State and Centre relations has also to be kept in view. Hence, simply sending directives to States will not serve any purpose, the Government must evolve some monitoring system. The Department of Civil Supplies should make such arrangements in which foodgrains supplied from the Central pool to the States could be effectively controlled. To-day I feel distressed to disclose that palm oil is being sold in the market openly and it is not available to villagers. The same is the position with regard to Janata cloth. It may be Bengal, Andhra Pradesh or any other State but I would like to see....

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :
Have you not sold imported edible oil in the open market.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : What I mean to say is that foodgrains and other commodities allocated to States are not being made available to the people. The Government should ensure that various commodities allocated by it reach the common man. I know that directives are issued to States by the Central Government from time to time. Letters are also sent by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies. But the States do not pay any heed to these directives. Our former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had formulated a 14 point programme with a view to strengthen the public distribution system. But I am sorry to say that several State Governments do not pay heed to this programme. There are clear instructions from the Central Government that a fair price shop should be opened for every 2000 units. In spite of that there are several tribal, difficult and remote areas where this policy is not being followed. Due to this the poor people do not get the

benefits of our policies. Our Prime Minister and the Government said that foodgrains will be provided to tribals and poor people at cheap rates. The areas having more than 50 per cent tribal population get ration at cheap rates. But the areas having a little less than 50 per cent tribal population do not get any such facility. I demand that all the Harijans, Girijans, people belonging to weaker and backward sections must get these facilities on a uniform basis. Foodgrains should, particularly, be made available in those 6 areas viz. Hill areas, desert areas, drought prone areas, cyclonic areas etc. which have been identified by the Planning Commission for this purpose. I know that the Government has also some limitations. There are certain States which have not so far issued ration cards to every family in the State. It is my own experience. When I asked people they said that printed ration cards have not so far been made available to their block offices. The people are being exploited in this way. In these days, we should ensure that commodities of basic needs are made available to the people. Ration cards should be given to each and every family in the country and all families should get regular supply of kerosene, gas etc.

Recently an announcement was made about the transportation charges of kerosene. The intention was to provide kerosene to people living in hill areas at reasonable rates. I may make one thing clear here that the State Governments have totally failed to supply kerosene to the poor consumers at the rates decided by the Central Government. The Central Government cannot be a silent spectator. Our prime Minister wants that poor tribals, people living in forests and Harijans should be supplied kerosene at reasonable rates. But the State Governments do not follow their directives. They are not implementing orders to that effect. Now it is not the question as to which Government is in power. The States which do not follow the Centre's policies should be dismissed. Now it will not do.

Just now the hon. Prime Minister said a very good thing in the House that there are some States which do not implement various major schemes cleared by the Centre. Those major schemes relate to irrigation, power, industry etc. and they would

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benefits of our policies. Our Prime Minister and the Government said that foodgrains will be provided to tribals and poor people at cheap rates. The areas having more than 50 per cent tribal population get ration at cheap rates. But the areas having a little less than 50 per cent tribal population do not get any such facility. I demand that all the Harijans, Girijans, people belonging to weaker and backward sections must get these facilities on a uniform basis. Foodgrains should, particularly, be made available in those 6 areas viz. Hill areas, desert areas, drought prone areas, cyclonic areas etc. which have been identified by the Planning Commission for this purpose. I know that the Government has also some limitations. There are certain States which have not so far issued ration cards to every family in the State. It is my own experience. When I asked people they said that printed ration cards have not so far been made available to their block offices. The people are being exploited in this way. In these days, we should ensure that commodities of basic needs are made available to the people. Ration cards should be given to each and every family in the country and all families should get regular supply of kerosene, gas etc.

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[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

have done a lot of good to the people. Instead they are interested in gaining cheap popularity by selling rice at Rs. 2 per k.g. Let them continue to do that, for how long they will be able to give. In West Bengal only those people possess ration cards who belong to their party. Even petty shop keepers belong to their party. In the service also their party people are being given jobs. The Selection Board has been suitably instructed to issue appointment letters to these people only. They are openly issuing appointment letters accordingly. Inspite of this they claim that their Government is democratic.

Three Ministers of their Government levelled charges openly that rigging was done during Panchayat elections. If any of our Ministers does like that, then he will not be allowed to continue as a Minister in our Government. They cannot even dismiss these Ministers because they know their loopholes. If these Ministers are dismissed, it is possible that their Government may fall. If there is such a Government in any part of the country, how could it be called a national Government. How could we expect that it will fulfill people's aspirations.

Sir, you know the condition of poor people. These people are trying to malign our Government. I request you to pay attention towards the few suggestions made by me. These people are hatching a conspiracy to blame the Government unnecessarily. It should not be so. Drought is a national problem. The distribution system is also a problem of the central sector. The Central Government has been trying to supply kerosene and other essential commodities at reasonable rates under this system. These Governments should manage to run the show smoothly. The Central Government is doing everything in the public interest. At present our country is passing through a very difficult situation. Under these circumstances action should be taken against those State Governments which are not following the policy of the Centre and distributing the essential commodities to the people other than the poor ones for whom these

commodities are supplied to the States, and charging Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per litre of kerosene though the Central Government wants to supply it at the rate of Rs. 2.25p per litre.

We have extended the term of Essential Commodities Act by one year. Due to this the lower level officers harass our people and businessmen. No one has been awarded punishment under the Essential Commodities Act. All those persons who had been apprehended, have been acquitted. That means this Act did not have even 15 per cent effect. I, therefore, suggest that there must be an implementing machinery in order to implement the provisions of an Act passed by the Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies and thank you a lot.

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak even at this late hour. I am supporting the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. This Ministry has the responsibility to provide food to the people all over the country and I am happy to say that it is discharging this responsibility efficiently.

The Public Distribution System has a great role to play in controlling the prices of essential commodities. This is one of the important items in the Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme. It is the duty of the Government to provide food at fair prices to the poor people and the policy of the Government is to open fair price shops in all nooks and corners of the country. I find that the member of fair shops has steadily gone up over a period of time. For example, in 1979 we had 2.39 lakhs fair price shops which have incurred to 3.41 lakhs in 1987. 78% of these shops are in the rural areas which shows the Government's concern about the people in the rural areas. But in this context I want to draw the attention of the Government to the complaints that many things are not available in the Fair Price Shops in the rural areas. Therefore the Government must monitor the distribution of the foodgrain which it supplies.

*The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

Another point I want to make in this connection is that the Government should increase the number of items distributed through M.Ps. For example, Pulses are very essential for nutritious diet. Therefore, Pulses should also be distributed through fair price shops.

The Central Government has a scheme to provide financial assistance to the Civil Supplies Corporations in North-Eastern States, Sikkim, J & K, Himachal Pradesh etc. for the construction of godowns. There was a demand from Kerala for similar aid. But it has not been considered. Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Minister to consider favourably the request from the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation for assistance to construct godowns in the State.

It is one of the most important duties of the Department to control the prices of essential commodities. I must say in this context that there has been very heavy price rise in respect of fruits and vegetables. The Government must make adequate arrangements to sell fruits & vegetables through consumer shops and other outlets. This problem is very acute in cities. Taking advantage of cold storage facilities the big wholesalers store these items and rebate them bit by bit into the market and make huge profit. There is a monitoring cell in the Civil Supplies Department; but more effective steps will have to be taken to control the prices.

Now, I come to some of the problems of my State, Kerala. The distribution of rice and palm oil is not being done properly in the State. This is causing a lot of problems to the public. When the Government under the leadership of Shri K. Karunakaran was in power in Kerala we used to get 1.25 lakh tonne of rice and 4000 tonnes of Palm oil per month from the centre. There was absolutely no shortage of these items at any points of time then. Now, in Feb. '88 the Centre supplied 1.35 lakh tonnes of rice and 7500 tonnes of palm oil. Even then there is shortage. This only shows that the state Government is not managing the distribution properly. It is not enough that get supplies from distribution has also to be ensured. That is the duty of the State Government; which is not being discharged by that Government. However, I take this opportunity to demand that Kerala should be given 1.45 lakh tonnes of rice and 10000 tonnes of Palm oil per month Adequate.

quantity of Kerosene and sugar too should be supplied. I would also request the Government to see whether the foodgrains and other items supplied by the Centre and being distributed properly. There is a tendency in the present left front Government in Kerala to mismanage the distribution and put the blame on the centre. So the Government should be very vigilant about it.

Sir, when the Karunakaran Government was in power in Kerala they used to supply free ration to the Adivasi in the Palghat district. This was a great relief to them who are badly hit by drought. But the present LDF Government has stopped that. This has increased their miseries. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to advise the State Government to resume the supply of free ration to the Adivasees.

Similarly, under the present practice, 50% of the ration is subsidized by the centre. I have a suggestion to make in this regard. This subsidized ration should be supplied to them at a time. Otherwise, they are not in a position to buy it and the shopkeeper will take all the benefits of the subsidy.

The public distribution system in Kerala has been widely acclaimed. But the State Government is not doing anything to strengthen it. This is evident from the fact that the State Government has made only a very small token provision in the budget for the PDS. This is a politically motivated step because if the PDS fails they can always put the blame on the centre. I would therefore request the Centre to meet fully the requirements of foodgrains and other items of Kerala and strengthen the public distribution system. I would also request the Minister to take step to monitor the distribution effectively. I once again support the demands and conclude.

{English}

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 26, 1988.

19.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
April 26, 1988/Vaisakha 6, 1910
(Saka).*